

In some other respects, however, he found in this small bureau a fairly well-constructed scaffolding, left by Sir Joseph Pope. The Department was already a co-ordinating bureau, a clearing house, and international centre and repository, and, a year later, was to be the principal post-office for all communications on foreign affairs, in place of the Governor General's Office. It already supervised at least three semi-diplomatic posts abroad - in the High Commissioner's Office in London, the Commissioner General's Office in Paris, and the Canadian Advisory Office in Geneva; and by agreed arrangements previously made, could enjoy more directly the help of the British diplomatic and consular services abroad, even by-passing where necessary the Dominions Office in London. The participation of carefully selected Canadian delegations in the League of Nations meetings and at many other international conferences, had already become an established practice - in which (in 1924) - Dr. Skelton himself had taken part; and the Department was already incipiently able to give guidance to this machinery of diplomacy. Under Sir Joseph Pope, it had also developed procedures of diplomatic protocol for locally accredited Consuls General in Ottawa and for important royal visitors and other Heads of State or foreign political leaders. Altogether, the elementary machinery was present, waiting