

the Canadian official representative. Doubtless he consulted King by telephone and King agreed, taking full responsibility for his deputy's action; doubtless also, he consulted Skelton who was with King. On December 6 the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, in secret with Laval, made a pact with Italy recognizing a dismemberment of Ethiopia. It does not appear what advice Dr. Skelton gave in this grave issue. Dr. Skelton had frequently been an interpreter of United States opinion which, although the U.S.A. was not a member of the League of Nations, was opposed to the risks of severe sanctions which might provoke war; on the other hand, Dr. Skelton was an international moralist who could not condone the Italian aggression and might have supported any effective League measures to stop it, provided that this did not incur war.

#### Outbreak of War

Dr. Skelton, a great democrat and idealist, had been disillusioned by the successive derelictions of international conduct by other countries, and the deviation from international morality. There was the Italian aggression against Ethiopia, the Spanish Civil War, the Japanese invasion of Chinese Manchuria, and the attack on North China; the German inroads on Austria and Czechoslovakia, in the Danzig corridor and elsewhere; and the dubious delaying tactics of Munich. Canada, a secondary power outside any of those troubled zones, had no direct