

and opponents. Parliament exercised its powers as a brake on enthusiasm or diplomatic excess. Mr. King, who in 1940, allegedly thought that Pearson and Robertson wanted "to go too fast" (1) himself moved fast enough in diplomatic expansion after the outbreak of the Second War; but then Parliament had abdicated some of its power, and the government was more free to act and expand under the blanket power of the War Measures Act, and by war appropriations, and by Orders-in-Council that did not have to be debated.

The third cause of Parliamentary interest in the Canadian external affairs service and diplomatic service lay in the fact that these adventures and innovations involved the always-interesting questions of status - within the old imperial framework, which was disintegrating, and internationally. The old struggle between unity of Empire and unity of foreign policy (a "single voice"), and the decentralization of the empire into a commonwealth of autonomous and independent units, expressed in the Balfour Report of 1926 and confirmed in the Statute of Westminster of 1931, and in subsequent developments like the end of appeal to the Privy Council and House of Lords, had its reflection in the growth, during the earlier stages, of an independent Canadian diplomatic

(1) Moffat Papers.