

Britain to war, Mr. King hastily summoned Parliament before declaring a state of war with Germany, although such a proper formality had not been followed in 1914 by Sir Robert Borden. The speech from the throne, calling for a declaration of war, was followed by a brief and sober debate. Opposition was insignificant and agreement was reached without a division; but, as Mr. King had postulated, it was Parliament which decided.

#### Deficiencies in Parliamentary Control

Notwithstanding these manifestations of the increasing interest and influence of Parliament in foreign affairs and imperial relations, there was much that was lacking. Some of the reasons for earlier parliamentary apathy or indifference, prior to 1914, may be enumerated:

First, both the public and its representatives in the Chambers were, in that earlier period, not well-informed. The international press agencies were still in a rudimentary stage; there was no radio or television to enlighten the public. The Cabinet rarely gave out to Parliament the information - often confidential - which came officially into its possession, mainly from London through the Governor General. The liaison between Cabinet and Parliament through the agency of Parliamentary Under-Secretaries or of Standing Parliamentary Committees had not yet been adopted.