

and the Foreign Office, sprang to life.* The Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London, and the Office of the Commissioner-General in Paris, acquired higher importance and responsibilities. The channel of communication through the Governor-General was found to be cumbrous and increasingly inadequate, and supplementary channels had to be gradually evolved, calling for improved apparatus in the governmental administration in Ottawa. Increasing visits of Allied dignitaries required improved ceremonial and protocol direction; the heavily increasing travel of Canadians abroad or to the U.S.A. required a larger passport bureau. The increasing number of foreign consuls in Canada required greater attention to their needs and problems. The Imperial Conferences before and after the War, and the participation in the Imperial War Cabinet during the War, required assistance to the Prime Minister by a bureau of specialists and advisers.

These were some of the factors which built up the need of a special Department for dealing with them..

New machinery was required in these new circumstances; and a part of this was the auxiliary institution - still experimental and formative - of the Department of External Affairs as a part of the process of government in Canada. Foundations had to be laid, and a skeleton structure contrived. Upon this base the Department, in its next phase of growth under Dr. Skelton, would be erected.

* See e.g. Lord Strang: The Foreign Office, pp.31, 34.