

of a department distinctively concerned with the conduct of external affairs and delayed the growth of representation abroad. Although a separate cabinet secretariat now exists, senior members of the Department, such as the Under-Secretary, continue to act in an advisory capacity to the Prime Minister and serve on important committees dealing with internal affairs, and a few junior members are assigned to the Prime Minister's Office for service."⁽¹⁾

From another point of view, the expansion of the Department in staff during the Skelton epoch while perhaps inadequate for the growing amount of work to be done (which had increased "twenty times"), was a considerable advance over the more static period of Sir Joseph Pope. A momentum was getting under way. The number of senior officers, quickly trained by the pressure of events, was augmented through the decade and a half of the present review. The Department was beginning to fulfil Joseph Pope's aspiration for a corps of trained men in international affairs, "officers trained for the purpose, whose business shall be to deal with such questions and such questions alone." Thanks largely to Dr. Skelton's acumen, a group of able, even brilliant, men had been recruited, by the time the Second World War broke out. "In External Affairs, the control-room of the expanding power-house", commented Bruce Hutchison, "the science of government held no more competent practitioners than Lester Pearson, who had yet to master his later profession of politics; Hume Wrong, whose mind worked like a flawless and flashing machine;

⁽¹⁾ Skilling: Canadian Representation Abroad. p. 262.