

It has been made clear in Part I and Part II of this survey that during the ~~war~~ years of the First World War, the Department of External Affairs, relatively new and still embryonic, was scarcely a serious affair except as a necessary and useful coordinating bureau; in the intervening years between the two Wars, its activeness gradually developed and its value became more appreciated, and it became, both in the home office and in its foreign service abroad, a real department of government; and the Second World War brought a greater reality into its duties and into Canadian-United Kingdom relations based on a genuine partnership. During this latter period, the old problem, virtually an incubus, of status and imperial relationships, which had burdened and handicapped Canadian freedom of foreign policy-making and the role of the Department, was at last sloughed off; and with its new independence of function, the Department became a "foreign office" of recognized competence and distinction.