

a Knighthood which Dr. Skelton felt obliged to decline. I wished to submit his name to the representative of the King for a privy counsellorship, not as an honour or reward but as a sworn relationship which I deemed appropriate to the performance of his highly confidential duties. This position he was unwilling to accept. He believed that men in the public service could best carry on their work by remaining in the background of anonymity and retiring from the light of public favour. He refused to accept any honour or position which would appear to remove him from the level of his fellow workers or create any barrier or embarrassment between him and them. He hated notoriety, controversy, publicity and everything that was blatant or garish. He knew that the best things in life are wrought in the stillness and solitude of the mind of man, and that reflection and silence become a trusted servant of the people far more than speech and the glitter of the limelight. By his own modest acceptance of these high traditions of the public service, which he did so much to create, he fashioned the pattern of the Department of External Affairs."⁽¹⁾

The Sanctions Issue

The election which overthrew the Conservatives under Mr. Bennett and reinstated Mr. King as Liberal Prime Minister took place on October 14, 1935. On October 2 the Government of Italy ordered its troops

(1) H. of C. Debates, February 17, 1941, p.818.