

Parliament would naturally take an even less interest in the administrative machinery involved in the conduct of foreign policy. It had little knowledge of the internal defects of the Privy Council machinery, to which Joseph Pope drew attention in 1907. It participated but little in the brief debate in 1909 on the setting up of a new Department of External Affairs, and in both the Senate and the Commons the Bill passed smoothly and without much controversy or even discussion. The same was true in the passing of the Amending Bill of 1912, by which the Department was placed under the Prime Minister as Secretary of State for External Affairs. The same was true when in 1946 a new Bill was introduced taking the Secretaryship of External Affairs out of the hands of the Prime Minister. These were administrative matters of machinery which did not interest Parliament except as regards the financial implications. Nor did it conceive of that Department being a dynamic policy-guiding organ; it was conceived of as purely an administrative bureau and centre of information and professional "expertise". An individual member, like Christie or Skelton, connected with that Department, might have some advisory influence with the Cabinet regarding foreign policy; but the Department was not considered as a policy organ, or as possessing the weight of the Foreign Office in Great Britain. In Dr. Skelton's epoch, as in Sir Joseph Pope's epoch,