

touch on the various problems of administration was light and indifferent. He was slowing down in energy, and feeling the strain on his physique; medical advice was apparently trying to put a brake on his detailed and unrelaxing work; he himself may have acted as a brake on the Department.

It was perhaps time for a change at the helm. New diplomatic missions were rapidly being opened in 1941; the United States was edging into non-belligerent cooperation, through the Ogdensburg Agreement, Lend-Lease, intervention in Greenland and Iceland, and, at the end of the year, was plunged into hostilities at Pearl Harbour; and this brought Canadian affairs more thoroughly into contact with its great neighbour and ally. The whole "Western" Grand Alliance meant more integrated diplomatic relations, which placed a greater responsibility on the Department as a "foreign office". All this new dynamic demand and strain and energy gave the Department, under Dr. Skelton's successor, a new sense of reality and purpose. It is doubtful whether Dr. Skelton, had he lived longer, would have been able to cope with this situation with the freshness and zeal that was required. His death in the commencing stages of the war left the way open for a new forward movement, invigoration and attitude of realism in the Department.