

was opening. Sir Joseph Pope had scarcely envisaged this change, which took material form a year after his retirement and in the year of his death. Dr. Skelton, the new Under-Secretary, was to face the effects of this constitutional transformation, and had to adapt the Department, as best he could, to the consequences and new implications and responsibilities.

There was, secondly, the League of Nations, which brought Canada, as an independent participating member, much closer to international affairs, both European and Middle Eastern and Far Eastern. Involvements of this kind placed a heavier burden on the small corps of diplomatic experts in Ottawa.

There was, thirdly, the final blossoming of the long-contemplated independent diplomatic representation abroad, already agreed to in 1920. The opening of new Legations (at Washington 1927, Paris 1928, Tokyo 1929, The Hague 1939, Brussels 1939), and of High Commissioners' Offices (in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, Newfoundland in 1940) and of Consulates (in Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon in 1940), and Legations in Brazil, Argentina and Chile (in 1941), were to mean new burdens and heavier responsibilities for the home Department in Ottawa.

In 1926, the Colonial Office yielded its responsibility for dominion external affairs to the