

machinery, which affected the Department of External Affairs and, by imposing new tasks and responsibilities, stimulated its development.

Expansion

Partly consequential to these constitutional changes, necessarily came the need of strengthening and expanding the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, especially after the opening of Legations abroad. Under Dr. Skelton, there was a general expansion of clerical staff, and an increase in the officer strength from three to fourteen.

The expansion was limited, and barely adequate for the growing needs. There were several reasons for this. Dr. Skelton personally preferred to overwork himself than to delegate tasks to extra staff. He preferred a small compact Department rather than a large and possibly unwieldy one. Both Mr. King and Mr. Bennett were in politics economical-minded, and wished to avoid requests for parliamentary appropriations for departmental expansion. Growth was retarded for five years (1930-35) because of the economic depression. There was little public interest in external affairs generally or toward the Department, except perhaps in the novelty of Canadian Legations abroad. After the first enthusiasm for the League of Nations, and over Canada's independent membership and active participation, there set in a period of relative