

its new and competent staff; several of his "Skelton boys" in due course carried on his torch, and in their turn became Under-Secretaries^{or Assistant Under-Secretaries} of the Department (N.A. Robertson, Laurent Beaudry, H.L. Keenleyside, F.J. Wrong, L.B. Pearson) or career Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing Canada abroad (Robertson, Wrong, Riddell, Keenleyside, Pearson, Kirkwood, Macdonald, Renaud, Escott Reid, and others) who had been trained and inspired by their chieftain.

The death of Dr. Skelton in the initial stages of the War was a tragedy; but in some aspects was not a vital loss to the Department. The Under-Secretary was in precarious health; he was overburdened with work, yet had been unable to develop the art of delegating or farming out the tasks to his associates. He was probably out of sympathy with Canadian participation in the War and therefore laboured without flaming enthusiasm. As the Department slowly expanded, he became isolated among his papers in his Under-Secretary's Office, or preoccupied with consultations with the Prime Minister and other leaders (his access to his chief, Mr. King, got more and more difficult and rare as the Prime Minister took on the full burden of the war and external affairs and of government at home). Dr. Skelton's own shyness and retiring nature left something to be desired in the way of departmental leadership. His