

When Parliament met in February, 1900, the Government had on its own authority sent two contingents. The debates in both Houses were prolonged and sometimes impressive. While the Government enjoyed an almost unanimous support on principles, criticism was not lacking. One test of the Government's policy came in the general election of 1900, an election largely fought on that policy. The results of the polling were somewhat striking; in Ontario the Government lost 14 seats, and in Quebec it gained all but seven.

This was a case not in which Parliament guided or directed policy, but in which post facto it made its influence felt. The original steps were taken without Parliament, which was not in session. (1)

(b) Questions of reciprocity or other tariff relations with the United States necessarily were extensively debated in Parliament, as having a bearing on domestic affairs and as a crucial political issue. It was perhaps in reference to this economic field more than any other that Dr. Skelton was justified in saying, in 1922, "To a considerable extent foreign policy is simply a

(1) See Glazebrook: A History of Canadian External Relations, pp. 277-280.