

in promoting the autonomy of the Dominions, and in gaining separate representation at the Peace Conference and in the League of Nations, the influence of Mr. Meighen on British policy over the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and Mr. Lapointe's signature of the Halibut Treaty independently for Canada.

The ensuing Skelton Epoch saw the completion of a number of changes in imperial constitutional evolution. The Department of External Affairs which he headed, commenced to have gradually a more prominent role to play in the way of policy-guiding.

After 1926, the centre of control and machinery of Dominion foreign policy shifted from London to Ottawa. Incidentally, in London itself, changes in the imperial machinery were also taking form. The Dominions Office was created out of the Colonial Office (1925); the role of the Governor General as a channel of official communication was abridged (1926); and he no longer represented the British Government in Canada, but only the Crown. The British Government appointed as its agent a High Commissioner to Canada (1928), and the Canadian Government enhanced the role and status of its High Commissioner in London, later exchanged High Commissioners with each of the fellow-dominions in the Commonwealth, and, in 1927, initiated its diplomatic representation abroad independent from the British diplomatic service. These were imperial constitutional changes, a remodelling of imperial