

Five years after Dr. Skelton took office as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, he gave to a Parliamentary Standing Committee a resumé of developments up to 1930:

As we are all aware, it is only very recently that the Canadian Government has found it necessary or desirable to develop special agencies for carrying on its international affairs. Our international contacts were formerly brief and scattered. Our relationship to the rest of the British Empire was of such a nature that our dealings with foreign countries were for the most part carried on through the Mother Country and its diplomatic staff, rather than through our own. Within the last twenty years particularly, however, a great deal has been done in developing the instrumentalities of international action within the Federal field.

This development has taken place in three directions. The first of these is the establishment of the Department of External Affairs, which corresponds to the Foreign Office and Dominions Office of Great Britain. The Department of External Affairs was founded in 1909. It has made rapid development, in view of the increase in international duties, during and since the war. It is growing, not as fast as those connected with it would like to see it grow, but its equipment for its tasks is being increased, so far as staff and organization is concerned. . . .

The second federal agency for dealing with international affairs consists in the permanent offices abroad. We have long had two such agencies, namely the High Commissioner's Office at London, established in 1880, and the Paris agency, the Canadian Commissioner in France, established in 1882. Recently the Dominion has expanded in the normal direction taken by other countries, in setting up diplomatic establishments. The office in Paris has been converted into a Legation, and Legations have been established at Washington and Tokyo. In addition we have a Canadian Advisory Officer at Geneva who acts on behalf of External Affairs and Labour, assisting in dealing with League of Nations matters. In these five permanent agencies we have the nucleus of a diplomatic staff. . . .