

### Appraisal

This survey of the so-called "Skelton Epoch" of the Department of External Affairs has in certain places overrun the date of 1941, the year of Dr. Skelton's death; because certain processes and aspects of organization which had been initiated - especially in the opening year or two of the Second War - came to fruition in the years following his demise. It had been thought reasonable, in certain instances, to "follow through" his initiatives into the ensuing period, rather than to break the continuity by a rigid cut-off date.

Nevertheless, an effort has been made to limit so far as possible the present survey to the period of Dr. Skelton's tenure as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, i.e., 1925 to 1941, a period of nearly sixteen years, matching the preceding "Pope Epoch", i.e., 1909-1925, also of sixteen years.

### Constitutional Changes

As has been indicated in the introductory chapter, the Pope Epoch had been characterized by the foundation and internal consolidation of the small new Department and its administrative structure, as an extra apparatus of government. If it seemed static, it was a germinating seed. In that period it had almost no policy-guiding significance. Foreign policy of the Dominion was still largely controlled in London, notwithstanding the fruitful efforts of Sir Robert Borden