

In the opinion of many who claim to have known Dr. Skelton's beliefs and philosophy, he was profoundly a man of peace at any price. The unpopular term "pacifist" is opprobrious; but apparently his sympathies inclined that way. He may have hopefully shared Mr. King's over-optimistic trust in Hitler's professed restraint in 1937. He may have shared, like most Canadians, the relief and confidence over the deceptive and illusory promises of Munich, as was optimistically expressed by the Government and Parliament. He appears to have ardently hoped for Canadian neutrality if war broke out in Europe; there were the eventual policy of Ireland and the policy of the United States as examples to sustain this opinion. But these views, if held, were unrealistic; and showed Dr. Skelton to be to some degree an abstract philosopher, an idealist, with a scholar's rather than a practical politician's mind. The Prime Minister, equally devoted to peace "if possible", knew as a political leader that if war came and Britain was involved - and thus inevitably gravely endangered - the Empire would be involved also, even with "no prior commitments". He knew that in Canada, not only would the nation immediately prepare to go to the defence of Britain, as the bastion of the Empire, but that under modern war techniques, the enemy could and would extend its attacks to Canada's coasts, so that there was no choice of decision as to Canada's