

Personal Influence of Dr. Skelton

Certain aspects of the Department and its overseas proliferations and diplomatic service were undoubtedly attributable to the character and personality of the Under-Secretary, Dr. Skelton. First, a former professor^{and}/dean, he personified scholarship, and most of the officers recruited into the Department by him were also of scholastic temperament. Indeed, there was a tendency, occasionally criticized, to be over-academic; for most of the new officers - a priori university graduates - possessed advanced degrees and several had taught in universities. The intellectual and scholastic level of the upper ranks of the Department, under Dr. Skelton, was exceptionally and conspicuously high.

Secondly, Dr. Skelton personally was modest and self-effacing; and this character and manner made their impress on the group of departmental officers who served under him. The showy side of the diplomatic profession was eschewed; personal publicity was decried; diplomatic uniforms and "gold braid" and conventional trappings of older European ceremonial were discouraged; official social life was kept within reasonable bounds in keeping with Canadian moderation and simple taste; and the emulative flamboyancy of more ancient diplomatic life was almost non-existent