

In the discussions of the Select Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations in 1930, on the subject of education on international affairs and promotion of peace, Dr. Skelton, who with Professor Corbett was a participant, warmly concurred in the belief that public opinion should be encouraged along these educational lines, but held that this should be the task of voluntary or non-official agencies, and that government agencies should stick closely to their main task. "I think the main contribution of the Dominion parliament, and the federal government, must be through their direct activities in carrying on their own job of contact with other governments and dealing with practical international problems. I think that the task of training public opinion, the task of training the people to deal with these affairs is one which under our present distribution of labour falls in the main to other agencies." (1)

These examples illustrate the manner in which the government and Cabinet took the initiative in the formulation and conduct of its external relations, and often ignored Parliament. There were, as has been indicated, practical reasons; and there were domestic political reasons, for this. The Cabinet was better informed, and had the services of the departmental advisers and certain of its own representatives, or

(1) Minutes. pp.15-16.