

involvement in what was happening; but for idealistic Canadians who sought only world peace, freedom of peaceful commerce, and continental security, these ~~presented~~ disturbances abroad and international immoralities were of deepest concern. Finally, the paranoic ambitions and war-mongering aims of Adolph Hitler, like those of Kaiser Wilhelm two decades earlier, produced the European war. All the efforts of European and British diplomacy had failed disastrously. Dr. Skelton, like thousands of others, was bitterly disappointed. On the brink of calamitous war, his optimism and high faith were shaken. If the evidence of an intimate journalistic observer who was in the Parliamentary Press Gallery in those years and who claims to have been given the private confidence of Mr. King, is to be relied on, the outbreak of war was a shattering disillusionment of all Dr. Skelton's hopes.

At one o'clock on the morning of September 1, Bruce Hutchison relates, "The Canadian Press telephoned Pickersgill, one of King's Secretaries, to report that the German armies had crossed the Polish frontier. Pickersgill was living with Norman Robertson, of the External Affairs Department, and the two of them followed the press reports through that night of waiting. They decided that it was useless to rouse their chief, for he could do nothing. At six o'clock they telephoned Skelton, who called Kingsmere and got the Prime Minister out of bed. King received the news in silence. He dressed and ate a leisurely breakfast. He motored to town, entered his office as calmly as if this were a day of routine business, and summoned Parliament for September 7."<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Bruce Hutchison: The Incredible Canadian, p.249.