

and long traditions of British responsibility for the Dominion's external relations. Canada had long acquired responsible self-government in its internal affairs. It was slow to do so in its external affairs, first because of its integral imperial connections, with the seat of Empire in London, and secondly because, with some exceptions, it was satisfied with the imperial diplomatic machinery under the more experienced British aegis. Even the early nationalists in Canada, while seeking supplementary Canadian representation, did not envisage an extreme rupture in imperial constitutional practice such as might be involved, nor did international issues arise which could not, even cumbrously, be dealt with on Canada's behalf by the experienced British agencies. Only during and after the First War did Canada begin to feel its own power, militarily and later diplomatically, and, led by Sir Robert Borden, attempt to assert its independent claims in handling matters of diplomatic character. It was under Mr. King in 1923 that Canada first independently signed a foreign treaty, the Halibut Treaty with the United States. It is debatable whether the later development of wider Canadian representation abroad necessitated and caused the expansion of the Department of External Affairs, or whether the Department, as it gained force, especially under Dr. O.D. Skelton, realized the necessity of, and promoted, the expansion of a purely Canadian diplomatic service abroad. Both in fact were true. In the outcome, particularly after 1926-7, the apparatus had a scissor-like character, each part subserving and cooperating with the other. As the activities