

The practical result of the system in vogue is that there does not exist to-day in any department a complete record of any of the correspondence to which I have alluded. It has been so scattered, and passed through so many hands that there is no approach to continuity in any of the departmental files. Such knowledge concerning them as is available, is, for the most part, lodged in the memories of a few officials. I fear too that in Downing Street, Canadian despatches are noted for diversity rather than for elegance of style. As the Dominion grows this state of things must always be getting worse. If some reform is not soon effected it will be too late. Even now, I am of opinion that it would be an extremely difficult task to construct from our official files anything approaching to a complete record of any of the international questions in which Canada has been concerned during the past fifty years. To give one illustration: Thirty-five years ago the question of ownership of the Island of San Juan, long at issue between Great Britain and the United States, was decided by the Emperor of Germany in favour of the latter. That surely is a matter of important historical concern to the Dominion, yet I should be at a loss to know to-day to what department of the Government to turn for any information as to this arbitration. Indeed, I am quite confident that it does not exist in any of them¹. . . .

JOSEPH POPE

2. *An Act to create a Department of External Affairs*

8-9 Edward VII, C. 13

[Assented to May 19, 1909]

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. There shall be a department of the Government of Canada to be called the Department of External Affairs, over which the Secretary of State for the time being shall preside.

2. The Governor in Council may appoint an officer who shall be called the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, and who shall be the deputy head of the department, and may also appoint such other officers and clerks as are requisite for the due administration of the business of the department, all of whom shall hold office during pleasure.

3. The Secretary of State, as head of the department, shall have the conduct of all official communications between the Government of Canada and the Government of any other country in connection with the external affairs of Canada, and shall be charged with such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to the department by order of the Governor in Council in relation to such external affairs, or to the conduct and management of international or intercolonial negotiations so far as they may appertain to the Government of Canada.

¹ See Parliament of Canada, *Sessional Papers*, 1907-8, No. 15, pages 48-50 for specific recommendations regarding administrative procedures.