

(1949), workmen discovered, opposite an elevator well on the third floor, in the tower above the entrance to the Privy Council chamber, a vaulted room, crammed with files for which generations of secretaries had no doubt searched in the course of their careers. Since it was apparently possible to gain access to the room from a Privy Council office, its usefulness may not have been entirely lost on those who had occasion to use it, and who were perhaps loath to be deprived of a convenient place in which to deposit their archives."(1)

As we give consideration to the Department of External Affairs, and its association with the East Block (daily connected with that centre even while the Department's offices were for five years housed in the Trafalgar Building), we share the feelings of such men as Macdonald and Laurier and Pope for this great edifice, honoured in prestige even in its earlier days and in each historic year becoming more impregnated with history and personality. "With its stiff and somewhat formalistic style, its dignified aspect, its long hallways and twisting passages, its gargoyles and its memories, the East Block has been, for close to a century, an Ottawa landmark. In this building generations of officials and statesmen have devoted their careers to the public interest, and if visitors sometimes joke about the East Block, their irony is not unmingled with affection for the values which it represents." (2)

Originally, the building housed the offices

(1) External Affairs Bulletin. September 1949. p. 14.

(2) External Affairs Bulletin. September 1949. p.14.