

absolutely true to the country of their adoption. Therefore we have declared by Order in Council and by proclamation under the authority of His Royal Highness the Governor General that those people who were born in Germany or in Austria-Hungary and have come to Canada as adopted citizens of this country, whether they have become naturalized or not, are entitled to the protection of the law in Canada and shall receive it—that they shall not be molested or interfered with, unless any among them should desire to aid or abet the enemy or leave this country for the purpose of fighting against Great Britain and her allies. If any of them should be so minded we shall be obliged to follow the laws and usages of war in that regard with all the humanity that may be possible. But up to the present, we have seen no disposition among these people to do anything of the kind. They are pursuing their usual avocations and behaving themselves as good citizens of Canada. We honour and respect them for it, and have every confidence that they will pursue that course throughout this crisis, however long it may continue.

It is proper that I should state to the House some matters which have to do with the precautions which the Government was obliged to take on the outbreak of war. I need not say that in the United Kingdom among those most closely in touch with these matters, especially among the military and naval authorities in the United Kingdom, there has been for many years a conviction that some effective organization in the dominions of the Empire should be provided so that an emergency such as that which arose so suddenly would not find us altogether in confusion.

Documents were presented to the Government of Canada, and submitted to me for consideration, by the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, Sir Joseph Pope, last December; and on the 6th day of January, 1914, after having gone carefully over the documents which were so submitted, I wrote to him the following letter, which I think it desirable to communicate to the House:

Prime Minister's, Office,
Canada
Ottawa, January 6, 1914.

Dear Sir Joseph Pope,

I have carefully considered the papers which you left with me a short time ago relating to a proposed conference of deputy heads for the purpose of concerting measures to be taken by the various departments of the Government primarily concerned, in the contingency of an

outbreak of war affecting His Majesty's dominions, and more particularly of considering the preparation of a War Book which shall set forth in detail the action to be taken by every responsible official at the seat of Government in the event of such an emergency.

The suggestion meets with my approval, and as the first notification of the outbreak of hostilities would emanate from your department, I authorize you, as Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, to call such a conference of deputy heads, to consist in the first instance of (1) yourself as chairman; (2) the Governor General's Secretary; (3) the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence; (4) the Deputy Minister of Justice; (5) the Deputy Minister of Naval Affairs; (6) the Commissioner of Customs; (7) the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries; (8) the Deputy Postmaster General; (9) the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals; with Major Gordon Hall, Director of Military operations (representing the Department of Militia and Defence), and Mr. R. M. Stephens, Director of Gunnery (representing the Department of the Naval Service), as joint secretaries.

You will keep me informed from time to time of the progress and results of your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) R. L. Borden.

Sir Joseph Pope,
Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

The work went on during the winter months, and, if the House will permit me to do so, I can describe what has been accomplished more conveniently by reading a memorandum which has been prepared by the chairman, and which is as follows:

Memorandum relating to a conference of deputy heads of certain departments of the public service, which met in Ottawa in the early part of 1914 to concert measures for the drawing up of a general Defence Scheme or War Book, embodying a record of the action to be taken in time of emergency by every responsible official at the seat of Government.

In 1913 the Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated to this Government certain memoranda of the Oversea Defence Committee outlining the action to be taken by the naval and military authorities when relations with any foreign power become strained, and on the outbreak of war. The suggestion was conveyed that the governments of the various self-governing dominions might advantageously prepare a similar record in each case to meet such contingencies. By the direction of the Government these recommendations were considered by the local Interdepartmental Committee (which is composed of the expert officers of the Naval and Militia Departments sitting together). The committee reported that a conference of those deputy ministers whose departments would primarily be affected by an outbreak of war, should be held to consider how best to give effect to the proposals of the Oversea Committee.

This suggestion was submitted to the Prime Minister and received the approval of the Government. Thereupon, a meeting of the under-mentioned deputy heads, together with the Governor General's Military Secretary, was held under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Pope,