

Mr. Coldwell said: "I understand that the salary provision becomes operative only if a separate minister is appointed for the Department." Mr. King replied: "That is right. The salary has been there for the last two years. I made the suggestion that it should be included a couple of years ago, hoping some one other than myself would get it; it will be there when a new minister is appointed."⁽¹⁾

The Separation

Nevertheless, notwithstanding all this reluctance to make the change at that time, despite the introduction and passing of the enabling Bill, Mr. King repeated once again his intention to separate the offices at an appropriate moment. "I agree that as soon as matters can be properly arranged with due regard to the public interest, it is desirable that the two departments should be separated."⁽²⁾

Mr. St. Laurent (1946-1948).

It was not until September of the same year, 1946, while Parliament was no longer in session that, by Order-in-Council based on the Amendment Act, the transition was made. It was still a compromise, for the portfolio of External Affairs was transferred from the Prime Minister provisionally to the Minister of Justice, who for a time held the double portfolio.

⁽¹⁾ Ibid. p.493.

⁽²⁾ Ibid. p.491