

Failing statutory clarification, private assurances that no change in the Governor General's role was contemplated sufficed to satisfy both Earl Grey and the Colonial Office. The Department did not presume to take over the conduct of Canada's external relations; but only the care of the correspondence. After Earl Grey left, the misgiving ceased. It was resuscitated briefly by the Colonial Office, and through the Duke of Connaught, in the amending Act of 1912, but again private explanations were reassuring, and no further dispute arose.

The only other difficulty encountered in the first few years was the routing of correspondence from the Governor General's Office to the two Departments. This was largely due to lack of explicit instructions, to misunderstandings, and to inadvertent errors in address. They were, on the whole, of little importance, and were rectified on each occasion and, in the end, remedied by closer agreement. But for a time they seriously irritated Pope, jealous of his own prerogatives and position, and he made an issue of them in acrid correspondence with Mr. Mulvey, the Governor General's Secretary, and ultimately Sir Robert Borden; but even in this matter, the Governor General's Secretary was absolved from blame; apologies were made where necessary, and more specific instructions clarified any errors of distribution.

#### Relations with Other Departments

It does not appear that either under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or under Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Arthur Meighen who were concurrently Secretary of State for External Affairs, there was any friction between their Prime