

1925, a period of over forty-years.

18. Retirement and Death

At the end of his career, Sir Joseph Pope could look back on a unique career of public service. Seven years as Prime Minister's Secretary, seven years with the Privy Council, thirteen years as Under-Secretary of State, and sixteen years as head of the Department of External Affairs, had given him a profound knowledge of the machinery of government and administration. He had been diplomat, master of ceremonial, archivist, historian, and administrator.

He retired from the Public Service on March 31, 1925, full of years and honours.* He took a holiday by the seaside at Atlantic City, perhaps reminiscing over his boyhood days within sight of the sea in Prince Edward Island. Although in impaired health, largely due to his fatiguing and unrelaxing labours, he apparently still retained some inclination for a rarely-indulged relaxation of fishing. Sir Robert Borden, out of office himself, paid him a warm and friendly tribute in the following letter, dated April 11, 1925:

During my absence in the South I learned of your retirement from the position which you have filled with eminent ability and devotion to duty during many years. Might I be permitted to tender my warm congratulations upon your long service to our country, which has been both noble and distinguished. I should like to add my personal appreciation of the effective and loyal assistance which I invariably received from you during my premiership.

* The Annual Report of the Department is characterized by laconism. In the 1924-25 Report Dr. Skelton wrote, on December 18, 1925: "It would not seem fitting to omit reference to the resignation at the end of the fiscal year of Sir Joseph Pope, who has efficiently filled the Office of Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs since the establishment of the department in 1909, and who thus brought to a conclusion a long and distinguished career in the public service of almost half a century."