

ministrative staff hitherto forming the Dominions Department of the Colonial Office, but the services of the General Department, the Legal staff, the printing, copying and accounts branch, and the Library were shared.

In 1930 the Dominions Office was placed under a separate Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, (Mr. J.H. Thomas), wholly divorced from the Colonial Office. "The title of the new Secretary of State", comments Prof. N. Mansergh, "was symptomatic of the new approach. He was not Secretary of State for the Dominions, which would have implied a measure of responsibility for them, but Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs. This was a nice refinement which had its importance, for it reflected accurately the nature of the duties with which the Department was charged. Its work was similar in kind to that of the Foreign Office, but the atmosphere was different, for relations with the dominions were conducted with a degree of intimacy that is not possible in relations with foreign countries, however friendly. 'A Foreign Office with a family feeling' was the happy description of Mr. Walter Runciman." (1)

The channel of communication through the Governor General lapsed in 1927; the Dominions Office replaced in 1925 the Colonial Office, but continued to serve as the Imperial Government's link with the Dominions through their High Commissioner in London, through the United

(1) Nicholas Mansergh: Survey of British Commonwealth Affairs, p.68.