

On a delicate controversial issue over the place of non-episcopal church representatives at a State funeral (that of Sir Charles Tupper) in 1915, Sir Joseph Pope, in a lengthy letter to the Rev. Clarence MacKinnon dated December 1, 1915, inserted:

I am only an official of the Government, and have no voice in their deliberations or in the shaping of their policy. I am at the same time almost, if not altogether, the only person living who has maintained an acquaintance with this subject for upwards of thirty years. . . (1)

An illustration of Pope's interest in ceremony and protocol, not without some pragmatism and glint of humour, is found in a letter he wrote on October 13, 1914, to an enquirer, Mr. Bastedo, invited to attend the opening of the Ontario Legislature in Toronto. For some reason the letter is sent from the Post Office Department Annuities Branch of which Mr. S. T. Bastedo was Superintendent.

I have yours of the 10th instant. I do not like evening dress worn at any time other than the evening. It is a continental custom, however, widely followed in most of the European countries, excepting England, and therefore I would not go so far as to say that on all occasions it is wrong. When a man is invited to a State function by an invitation card which is marked Full Dress, he should go in the fullest dress he has got. If he has a civil or military uniform, he puts it on. If he has no uniform, he goes, in England, in Court Dress, that is a velvet dress with knee breeches and black stockings. Very few, however, in Canada have this dress and, therefore, nothing remains for them but to put on evening dress, which is the fullest dress they possess. I do not fancy, however, that the invitations to the opening of the Ontario Legislature are marked Full Dress, therefore morning dress is in order. Personally, I dislike evening dress in the day-time so much that I would rather not go to a function than wear it. At the same time circumstances sometimes arise when one has got to do violence to one's feelings in the matter. For example, when I was in Rome last year I attended a Papal Audience, and, having no uniform with me, in order to comply with the regulations, I had to go in evening dress, although it was eleven o'clock in the morning. That is how the matter stands. (2)

(1) Pope Papers. S.O. Vol.98. No. 669.

(2) Pope Papers. S.O. (See footnote* next page).