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I think I have made it clear from time to time that I was not over-anxious to carry the extra burden of the Department of External Affairs in addition to those of the Prime Minister. I certainly would not be carrying both portfolios at the present time if it were not that the questions which are uppermost in this and other countries today are for the most international questions which call for as much in the way of experience and knowledge as it is possible for one to command, and also for the fact that the two departments, the department of the Prime Minister and that of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, have been so interlocked for the past thirty or forty years that the separation of those two departments at a given moment is not something that can be very readily brought about. (1)

Jean

Even the often sharp-tongued critic, Mr. François Pouliot, rallied to the support of the Prime Minister retaining the portfolio. "Now he is opening the way for the creation of another department. Everybody is enthusiastic for it. Well, I know there are some able men in the cabinet; but that is not enough. If we want Canada to be respected through and through by the other nations of the world, then the position of Secretary of State for External Affairs must be considered by the government of this country as the most important in the interests of Canada. The man who will be in charge of that department must have enough prestige to have influence within the cabinet, and to impose Canadian views upon his colleagues when they are about to jump the fence of sentimentality. If the Prime Minister made a success of his term as Secretary of State for External Affairs it was precisely because he was Prime Minister of Canada. . . . The right hon. gentleman has the prestige of a quarter of a century or more as Prime Minister of Canada. He has the knowledge of the past, and the knowledge of the great men of the past. . . Without his learning, without his

(1) Ibid, p.489.

(2) Ibid, p.489.