

of external concern necessarily fell to some extent into abeyance;" and in one of his letters he excused the high cost of printing his Confidential Prints by pointing out that the costs covered "three years of arrears" of suspended printing. *

More Problems re Printing

In 1920 this enterprise of Pope's once more ran into difficulty as regards printing. In the autumn of 1917, on the recommendation of Sir George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, a Joint Committee of both Houses was set up to examine the costs of public printing of Parliament. In September the Joint Committee made its report which included the proposal for an Editorial Committee composed of three senior members of the Civil Service and a Privy Council Committee of three to advise and approve the suggestions of the Editorial Committee. The latter Committee was ultimately composed of Mr. Fred Cook, Assistant King's Printer, Mr. F.C.T. O'Hara, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Francis C.C. Lynch, of the Department of the Interior. (1)

It is not clear to what extent the Editorial Committee, thus set up, supervised the printing by External Affairs during the next two and a half years. No difficulties appear in the records. In fact, until 1920, the Editorial Committee apparently had no knowledge of the Confidential Prints. But in March, 1920, it submitted a report recommending the discontinuance of the printing of the series of Confidential Prints, on grounds of their cost, and suggested mimeographed copies instead.

(1) Borden Papers, O.C. 552. (Public Archives)

* An index of the subject matter of Confidential Prints from 1909 to 1927 is contained in Departmental file 997-L-1-A-40, Vol. 1.