

Conduct

A few days later the Bill in its unamended form passed the Senate, and this caused Earl Grey some perturbation, and led him to request the Prime Minister to hasten an Amending Act to make the desired correction. In his letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier dated May 6th, he wrote:

You will I know have been sorry to learn that the Act creating a Department of External Affairs had already passed the Senate when we talked together on the subject of its language. I understand from Mr. Aylesworth that there will be no difficulty in pressing an Amending Act which will remedy the oversight in allowing the word 'conduct' to stand.

I enclose a copy of a letter written to Lord Crewe last Monday, under the belief that the Bill was to reach the Committee stage in the Senate that afternoon.

This letter was a Private unofficial one - otherwise I would not have used the word 'improper' to which I am aware exception could be taken.

In view of the illustration given by Mr. Ewart of an animus against any connection between Canada and H. M. Government or even the Crown, my request that steps should be taken to substitute care for conduct, will, I feel sure, appear to you to be necessary.⁽¹⁾

To this letter, Laurier replied on the same days:

I write you a word in haste about the Bill creating the department of External Affairs.

After our conversations of the other day I went to Sir Richard Cartwright to have the change made, but he informed me that the Bill had been passed in the Senate and sent to the Commons.

It is hardly possible to re-open the matter. We can amend the Bill next session. To this I have no objection whatever.

(1)

Laurier Papers

Gov. Gen. 1909 (Letter 206092-4)