

It will be seen from this memorandum that Pope, had several reasons, partly personal, for advocating the Australian practice of placing External Affairs under the Prime Minister. Besides the larger aspect of the Prime Minister's overriding supervision and responsibility, as head of government, for Canada's external policies, Pope found that it was administratively burdensome to keep both the Prime Minister unofficially advised and the Secretary of State officially advised; that it created some extra work, some inefficiency, some jealousy among colleagues of other departments, and "a position which in the past has been wellnigh intolerable." In these words, and other phrases quoted, it is evident that Pope was a sorely overworked official, and was suffering under the strain, as well as the psychological indignity of serving two masters, "embarrassing to me who had two chiefs to deal with."

Apparently this pressure from Pope and others, the precedent of Australia, and the obvious practical value of having the person most responsible for external policy, i. e. the Prime Minister himself, placed in charge of the External Affairs department, prevailed upon Sir Robert Borden and his Cabinet; for early in the year, 1912, revised legislation was drafted and laid before them for favourable consideration.

The New Act

This was then presented to Parliament as Bill No. 58; after debate it was passed, as Statute 2, George V. ch. 22, and assented to on April 1, 1912, as an "Act respecting the Department of External Affairs", which repealed the Act of 1909. The new statute provided in section 3 that "the member of the King's Privy Council holding the recognized position of First Minister shall be the Secretary of State for External Affairs." This was the very phraseology proposed in Pope's draft of