

Apart from Mr. Borden's reply of October 5, 1912, requesting a copy of the Order-in-Council referred to and a draft Order-in-Council "such as you think should be passed", which Pope promptly provided, it does not appear from the records so far seen that any action was taken on Pope's long memorandum of September 13th. Pope enclosed the Order-in-Council, P.C.1242 of June 1, 1909, setting up the new Department of External Affairs, and a draft of an amending Order-in-Council, as follows:

To His Royal Highness the Governor-General-in-Council:

The undersigned has had under his consideration the working of the Department of External Affairs, and in relation thereto he finds that the directions laid down in that regard in the Minute of the Privy Council, approved by Your Royal Highness's predecessor on the 1st June, 1909, do not appear in all cases to have been observed with that uniformity and regularity which is indispensable to the effective discharge of the duties of his Department. He therefore recommends that in all cases where a despatch or other document, calling for action, is referred by him to a public department, the head of that department shall communicate his views thereon, either directly to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or through his deputy to the Under-Secretary as may be most convenient, and that the necessary report in the premises to the Governor-General-in-Council or Governor-General as the case may be, shall be made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The undersigned also recommends that, in order to give effect to the provisions of the Act constituting the Department, whereby responsibility for correspondence with outside Governments is entrusted to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Your Royal Highness may be pleased to direct that all requests or recommendations to the Governor-General for communications to outside Governments should be made through the medium of the Department of External Affairs.

The undersigned also recommends that, with a view to the more expeditious despatch of public business, the Secretary of State for External Affairs be authorized to communicate direct with Lieutenant-Governors of Provinces in respect of such external affairs.

Humbly submitted:

Secretary of State for External Affairs
Ottawa, 17 October, 1912.