

Sir Joseph Pope

1. Antecedents

As, throughout this survey, Sir Joseph Pope constantly appears as the protagonist, the designer and architect, the founder and builder, and the first tenant of his departmental edifice for some sixteen years of its history, it is appropriate to present a brief sketch of his life and personality. His official contributions to the Department of External Affairs itself have been indicated throughout these pages.

Sir Joseph Pope's family connection with early Confederation history went back to his grandfather, an earlier Joseph Pope, and both his father and his uncle continued the tradition of political service in the new Dominion.

His grandfather, the Hon. Joseph Pope, had been distinguished in the political life of Prince Edward Island long before Confederation, and had held high public office in Charlottetown. Of his two sons, the elder was William Henry Pope, the father of (Sir) Joseph Pope, and the younger was James Colledge Pope.

James Colledge Pope, Sir Joseph's uncle, was born in Charlottetown on June 11, 1826, and was educated in England. When he was 23 he went to California, during the "gold rush" of 1849. He then returned to Prince Edward Island, and engaged in ship-building and other mercantile enterprises. He became a member of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.