

was concentrated on the administrative problems, and on the proposed new "machinery" for remedying them. Barely a reference was made to the wider issue involved, that of the conduct of foreign policy as such. Little reference was made to the use of the new Department in assisting the Government in formulating policy or dealing with serious outstanding international problems such as the Alaska boundary, international waterways, fisheries, or commercial questions. * The woods were apparently obscured by the trees. The new Department was discussed as an instrument, but its practical use in operations was barely mentioned.

Senate Debate

The Bill was introduced in the Senate by the Government Leader Sir Richard Cartwright on April 21st; it had its second reading on April 27th; was discussed in Committee on the 29th; had its third reading and was agreed to on April 30th. On May 19th it received Royal Assent.

In the Debate in the Senate, Sir Mackenzie Bowell objected to the Bill on the grounds of expense and of duplication of services. Similar views were expressed by Senator Ferguson, while Senator Lougheed declared that this Bill merely presaged the ultimate establishment of a full department involving the appointment of an additional Minister. To this he objected. Here, also, however, the criticism was neither prolonged nor severe. Senator Lougheed was frank enough to state "I may tell my hon. friend that I am not losing any sleep over this Bill". (1)

(1) Senate Debates. 1909. p.400.

* Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others did mention the Atlantic fisheries question, but only in relation to the proper collection of data from the departments concerned in order to "be prepared to advise the Governor General as to the policy that ought to be followed."