

Likewise, Borden, the Leader of the Opposition, while strongly deprecating the proposal for the creation of an additional separate department for external affairs, had gone on to argue in favour of its work being put in charge of the First Minister instead of a Secretary of State or Secretary of State for External Affairs.⁽²⁾ (To this view he remained consistent, for in 1912 when he had succeeded as Prime Minister, the new Act placed the Department under his own charge). He drew attention to the Australian parallel where the Minister of External Affairs was, in principle, the Prime Minister. "If we are to concede what the Prime Minister has argued for - and I am not disposed to concede it because I am not yet convinced - but if one were disposed to concede the argument of the Prime Minister that a new department is necessary for mere purpose of organization, then I say that that department should be under the control of the Prime Minister and not under the control of the Secretary of State."

From then on, Pope and Walker had been drafting, one after another, a whole series of proposed amendments to the 1909 Act. Most of these amendments accepted the provision that the Department should be under the Secretary of State, as Laurier had substituted, but endeavoured to assert the full title of "Secretary of State for External Affairs" and to set forth more precisely his scope of duties, at the same time delimiting the scope of duties of the Secretary of State.

It will be recalled that Pope had written a note to Mr. Murphy in November 1909 suggesting an amendment to the new Act, which would place the position of the Secretary of State for External Affairs in proper focus, but Murphy had turned down this suggestion, on the ground that as the new Department was unpopular among the Cabinet

⁽²⁾Ibid. p. 2002