

An Act respecting the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.

HER Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows :

Preamble.

1. There shall be a department to be called "The Department of the Secretary of State of Canada," over which the Secretary of State of Canada for the time being, appointed by the Governor General by commission under the Great Seal, shall preside ; and the said Secretary of State shall have the management and direction of the Department, and shall hold office during pleasure.

Department constituted.

Tenure of office.

2. The Governor General may also appoint an "Under Secretary of State," and such other officers as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the said Department, all of whom shall hold office during pleasure.

Under Secretary and officers.

3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to have charge of the State correspondence, to keep all State records and papers not specially transferred to other Departments, and to perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned to him by the Governor General in Council.

General duties of Secretary.

4. The Secretary of State shall be the Registrar General of Canada, and shall as such register all Instruments of Summons, Commissions, Letters Patent, Writs, and other Instruments and Documents issued under the Great Seal.

To be Registrar General.

5. The Secretary of State shall be the Superintendent General of Indian affairs, and shall as such have the control and management of the lands and property of the Indians in Canada.

And Superintendent of Indian affairs.

6. All lands reserved for Indians or for any tribe, band or body of Indians, or held in trust for their benefit, shall be deemed to be reserved and held for the same purposes as before the passing of this Act, but subject to its provisions ; and no such lands shall be sold, alienated or leased until they have been released or surrendered to the Crown for the purposes of this Act.

Indian Lands.

Alienation on certain conditions only.