

Mr. Mulvey, the Under-Secretary of State of Canada, has sent me a copy of a letter which he has addressed to you with reference to the distribution of despatches from your office. I am not now going into this subject in any detail. It seems to me sufficient to enclose copy of a Minute of the Privy Council approved by the late Governor General on the 1st June, 1909, directing that all despatches of a nature to be communicated to Ministers (and necessarily their enclosures) be referred to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to be by him distributed to the Departments to which they relate. It was on this understanding that the Department of External Affairs was founded. I drew this Minute myself, and discussed it clause by clause with Sir Wilfrid Laurier who approved it. It is the only possible basis on which the department can be successfully administered, and in any case I respectfully submit that the enclosed Minute should be the guide of the Governor General's Office until changed or modified by the Governor-General-in-Council.

Colonel Lowther, writing from Montreal on June 12th, replied to Sir Joseph Pope:

I should be very sorry indeed if your Department had been short-circuited in any way. As far as I am aware, the only documents which have been sent direct to departments have been routine matters relating to services of officers or other unimportant details in the Militia Department. Sometimes for the convenience of the Prime Minister copies of despatches or telegrams have been sent to the Prime Minister simultaneously with their transmission to yourself.

P.S. I have had nothing from Mulvey.

Pope hastened to acknowledge this on June 13th:

I apologize for not having signed my letter of the 10th instant.

In writing it I assumed you had before you Mr. Mulvey's letter, as he wrote me on the 10th he was sending it.

Let me make quite clear to you that it is not I who am complaining of the Governor General's Office. Little inadvertences may sometimes happen, and I recognize that every rule has its exceptions, but my relations with your Office, and with every member of your staff are of the most pleasant description, and have always been so.

It is Mr. Mulvey who is dissatisfied with your course in referring everything to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. My point is