

the Minister himself, his eyes and ears, his appendages, no less than <sup>were</sup> his own personal confidential secretary or typist, and were therefore trusted and privileged. Where, as subsequently, the Prime Minister, holder of the highest confidential material, became Secretary of State for External Affairs as well, the Department formed a part of his particular confidential staff, no less than the staff of the Privy Council; and thus closely shared in his documentary work, however confidential. But it stands to reason that confidential documents coming before the Privy Council have to be handled by other trusty persons outside the Councillors; the Privy Council clerks who file and register and minute them; and the Departments who have to deal with them. Dawson makes the peculiarly blunt statement that "Civil Servants, it may be noted, are more to be trusted with confidential material than Ministers," illustrating this challenging remark by adding, "It is not without significance that the Minister of Finance does not disclose his budget proposals to the Cabinet until a few hours before their announcement to Parliament although a number of civil servants have had the information for weeks." (1) Similarly, with confidential documents dealing with diplomatic matters, the majority of them have to be dealt with by the civil service staff of various departments.

When the proposal for creating the new department was under debate, one or two members objected

(1) ~~Ibid., p. 220. Note.~~ R. MacGregor Dawson. The Government of Canada. p. 220. Note.