

do not propose to create any new Department of State. . ." His opponents were not reassured. Senator Landry interposed: "For the time being"; while Senator Ferguson said: "My right hon. friend will remember there is a place paved for good intentions". Sir Richard said: "I do not undertake to predict what may occur in the future. Canada is a growing country, and no one can tell to what dimensions it may attain in a few years; but it certainly is not our intention to create a new cabinet minister."(1)

In order to make it legally possible to appoint a separate Secretary of State for External Affairs if desired, a bill was introduced into the House of Commons by the Prime Minister on March 15, 1946, to amend the Department of External Affairs Act by repealing the section that requires that "the member of the King's Privy Council for Canada holding the recognized position of First Minister shall be the Secretary of State for External Affairs".

The External Affairs Department Act Amendment Bill, No.6, was introduced in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister, and had its first reading on March 15, 1946,(2) its second reading in Committee on April 2,(3) and its third reading and approval on the same date.(4)

In introducing the Bill, Mr. King said:

(1) Senate Debates, April 27, 1909, pp.359-60.  
(2) H. of C. Debates, March 15, 1946, p.23.  
(3) Ibid. pp.477 ff.  
(4) Ibid. p.494.