

Rideau Hall, the seat of the Governor General. Thither, every morning, Pope would walk ^{or cycle} /or drive, bringing the day's mail, the digestion of which, under the simple conditions employed, would take till afternoon.

On the death of his aged chief, Pope, having been personally requested and nominated by Sir John, and with the concurrence of Lady Macdonald, became his devoted biographer - no small task for a busy official.

Joseph Pope had been born in an Anglican family, but became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith soon after his entry into public service. Brought up in Conservative tradition, he retained Conservative tendencies all his life, and was an arch-imperialist; but as a public servant he was non-political, and served as faithfully the great Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and even for a few years Mr. Mackenzie King, as he did the Conservative premiers, Macdonald, Borden and Meighen.

4. Assistant
Clerk of the Privy Council

In 1889, in addition to his secretarial duties to the Prime Minister, Pope became also Assistant Clerk of the Privy Council of Canada, an important position which brought him into even more intimate touch with the Ministers of the Cabinet and with the inner workings of the government machinery. Through his hands passed much of the Cabinet papers and correspondence, and some of the communications passing between the Governor General and the Privy Council. It is very likely that this additional position was arranged in order to give Pope more security and permanence in the public service than as private secretary to the ailing and aging Prime Minister. A position in the Privy Council, whether attained through