

to the wording and suggested its amendment; but nothing was done and the Bill passed through both Houses with the original and unwelcome phrasing. Grey claimed that Laurier had promised to have it changed before passage, but apparently "forgot". He still hoped that the amendment might be made before the final reading in the Senate, and in that expectation wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Lord Crewe, on May 3:

I enclose a copy of the bill creating a Department of External Affairs. I called the attention of Sir Wilfrid as soon as it was drafted to the fact that the word 'conduct' in clause 3 did not correctly interpret the speeches made by himself and Mr. Aylesworth in the Debate on the introduction of the Bill; that to give the Secretary of State the 'conduct' of official communication between the Government of Canada and other governments, would be regarded as an improper attempt to shelve the Governor General; that I was aware this was not his intention, and that the substitution of the word 'care' for the word 'conduct' was all that was required. He unreservedly agreed with all I said, and undertook that the word 'care' should be substituted. Although he made a note at my request in his pocket book, he must have forgotten to give any instructions in the matter, with the result that the Bill has passed the Commons and the second reading of the Senate in its unamended form. I saw the Secretary of State, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Minister of Justice this morning and pointed out to them the importance of amending the Bill in this direction in Committee of the Senate. They all three promised that it should be done, so I hope that matter is all right. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier had allowed the Bill to be passed in its original form I should have had to request him to bring in an amending act, in order to avoid men of the Ewart stamp from pointing to Article II and deducing from it conclusions that the Governor General was a superfluous and unnecessary official.<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Grey of Howarth Correspondence Vol. 15. Folder 36.  
(Doc. 004201-3)