

Government than with defending particular Canadian interests. Grey was aware of this misgiving, and tried to excuse or justify Bryce by reminding Laurier that Bryce had to serve as the agent not of the Colonial Office but of the Foreign Office, which had wider stakes in view than particular colonial matters. In a private letter to Lord Crewe, dated September 23, 1908, Grey referred to Bryce's visit to Ottawa: "We had endless talks with Bryce on international matters. Of course the F.O. always takes the part of the devil's advocate, for the sake of peace and quiet, just as the C.O., in theory, is prepared to fight the world for one Canadian seal or one Newfoundland lobster." (1)

Despite his moments of misgiving or petulance, Laurier had, however, a confidence in Mr. Bryce which needed little persuasion by the Governor General. On December 15, 1909, Laurier emphatically declared in the House of Commons his dissent from the idea of sending a Canadian attaché to Washington on the score that Bryce's work sufficed for all purposes; and in January, 1911, he again eulogized his services. Bryce himself declared at the Ottawa Canadian Club on March 8, 1913, "A large part, the largest part of the business that I have had at Washington, is connected with Canada. . . . Most of the business of the British Embassy at Washington is Canadian business - I should say at least three-fourths of it . . . It has been my privilege to sign either eleven or twelve treaties . . . with the United States Government since I went to Washington, and of that whole number nine have been treaties relating to the affairs of Canada." (2) Grey actively interested

(1) Grey of Howith Collection. Vol.15. Folder 31.(Doc.664093).

(2) Ottawa Canadian Club Addressed, 1912-13. pp.183-4