

First Volume of Canadian State Papers

WITH the recent publication of French and English versions of *Document on Canadian External Relations, Vol. I*, the Department's centennial project reached fulfilment. Although work began several years ago, the process of location and selection of documentation, examination of variants, close editing, indexing, translation, and proof-reading of a 900-page volume has been an exacting task for the few specialists involved. However, the Department's initial venture into the publication of official papers which indicate chronologically the development of Canadian external relations should provide scholars, statesmen, diplomats, and certain sections of the general public with detailed insights into the early formation of this country's foreign attitudes.

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The historical starting-point for the first unit of what is hoped will be a continuing series was fixed at the year 1909, which marked the establishment of the Department of External Affairs. The present volume spans the period of a decisive decade which saw Canadian external relations expanding in range and complexity. Its contents provide the background of the tentative beginnings of Canada's foreign service, the official exchanges connected with the First World War, the Imperial Conferences of 1911 and 1918, the formation of the Canadian navy, the establishment of the International Joint Commission, Atlantic and Pacific fisheries disputes, the question of Asian immigration, various boundary problems, and bilateral relations with many countries. A large number of the memoranda, despatches, letters and telegrams involving such figures of historical note as Asquith, Lloyd George, Churchill, Woodrow Wilson, Taft, Laurier, Borden and many other world figures of the era are publicly reproduced for the first time. Accordingly, this large maroon-coloured volume should provide important reference material for scholars at home and abroad in the years to come.

During the recent past, the Historical Division, with the aid of professional historians and successive Departmental editors, has processed the selection of documents now made public. An analytical index has been provided and, though each document is reproduced in the language of the original, all current additions, such as preface, introduction, footnotes, captions and index, will appear in French or English according to the character of the edition. The volume should be of special interest to Members of Parliament, government departments, libraries, posts abroad, foreign chancelleries, and certain Departmental divisions at home. Public sale of *Documents on Canadian External Relations, Vol I, 1909-19*, will take place through the facilities of the Queen's Printer.