

Mr. Mulvey's letter of the same date to
Colonel Lowther read:

I hope you will pardon my persistence, but this appears to be necessary in adjusting the distribution of business from your office which must be attended to by either the Department of External Affairs or the Department of the Secretary of State.

Some months ago I discussed this subject with you and with Sir Joseph Pope, and I understood that a few rules were laid down which were to be adhered to as well as they could be in distributing business. One of these rules I understood to be that matters originating in Canada should be dealt with by this Department, while matters originating out of Canada should be dealt with by the Department of External Affairs. This is, of course, an arbitrary division, and one which should be elastic, but it was considered at the time to be a reasonable one, and it should be adhered to, with such special exceptions as may from time to time be necessary.

(Several examples of erroneous addressing and handling were then quoted, pointing out that what should have been sent to the Secretary of State's Department by custom were now going to, and were being handled by, the Department of External Affairs.)

Personally it makes not a whit of difference to me how papers are distributed from your office. I think you will agree with me, however, that public business should be carried on under well defined rules, and that it is my duty to do what I can to see that this is done. With respect to the division of duties of the Department of External Affairs and the Department of the Secretary of State, it is especially necessary that a well-defined division should be made. This is in the public interest, as well as in that of the Departments. The public should readily know with whom they deal, and, so far as the Departments are concerned, mistakes and delays cannot otherwise be avoided.

I shall be glad if you will discuss this matter with the officials of your Department, and to hear from you whether my views are in accordance with yours. Some time ago I had occasion to discuss the subject with you, as I did several times with your predecessor in office, and matters remain very much what they were.

This letter was followed the next day, June 11th, by one from Pope to Colonel Lowther: