

Dominions Office

In Part I of this survey, attention was given to the history, role and relationship of the Colonial Office with the external affairs of Canada, using the Governor General as the channel in Canada until 1927. As was shown in an Appendix, efforts were made between 1907 and 1914 by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and also by Earl Grey in Canada, to have the Dominions work of the Colonial Office separated from the work concerning the Crown Colonies. After the Colonial Conference of 1907, a partial step was taken by Lord Elgin, the Colonial Secretary of State, by establishing a Dominions Department within the Colonial Office. Later efforts to bifurcate the Office, urged by Sir Joseph Ward and Earl Grey, were abortive; Grey himself promoted the scheme of an independent Dominions Office and a separate building (also to house all the Dominion High Commissioners' Offices), until the scheme broke down at the beginning of the 1914 War, and was not revived in that form. To complete the record, however, the following further note may be added to relate the development during this second period of the present survey.

On the retirement of the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Colonial Office in 1919, Mr. Churchill, Colonial Secretary from 1921 to 1922, found himself unable to entrust the duties of the post to any member of the Colonial Office staff. He was therefore obliged to appoint an outsider , who had no special Colonial experience.