

into one of equality and partnership, with increasing autonomy in the field of foreign affairs. As a consequence, the machinery in England had been adapted to the new relationship; a Dominions Office was created; the channel of communication was amended. There was more direct intercourse and correspondence between Prime Minister and Prime Minister; the channel of the High Commissioner was enhanced, and the role of the Colonial Office and the Governor-General as the primary channel of communication proportionately declined. These shifting relationships and machinery of intercourse were paralleled by the greater functions of the Department of External Affairs in centralizing them on the Canadian side. By degrees the Department became "responsible" for the Canadian offices in London, Paris, Washington and Geneva. It also became the auxiliary bureau of the Prime Minister's Office, and logically was placed under his direction as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

During this epoch, Canadian diplomatic representation abroad inconspicuously began to take, in a tentative manner, a new character and influence. Canadian negotiators to an increasing degree participated with or without their British colleagues and tutors; at times they substituted for British statesmen as chairmen of conferences or committees; by 1923 a treaty (the Halibut Fisheries Treaty) was signed by a Canadian negotiator without British counter-signature. Canadian delegates attended international conferences, and League of Nations Assemblies, and Canada had independent representation and separate votes. One or more