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The Department of External Affairs

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relations were directed and controlled by the Imperial Government in Great Britain through the Colonial Office and through the Governor-General. By 1914, however, Canada and the other British dominions had acquired considerable self-government in the field of external relations. This was, partly because of increasing importance in world affairs and partly out of a growing desire for national status, which had been fostered particularly during the First World War. Canada sought, within the existing constitutional framework of the Empire, a fuller control over its external relations. This trend was subsequently emphasized by the participation of the Pacific Peace Conference of 1919 of a delegation led by Sir Robert Borden, by the signing of the Peace Treaty and many as well as other international agreements, and by her membership in the League of Nations as one of the original members. Subsequently, Canada's first efforts concerning its own external relations. In the early 1920s, with the formation of

the Department of External Affairs, the Government of Canada began to take a more active part in international relations. In 1922, Sir Joseph Pope, the former Secretary of State,

In May 1922, under the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which introduced a bill, Parliament authorized the establishment of a "Department of External Affairs". The title was passed to a minister designated with Canada's relations with other governments within the British Empire and with foreign states. The act creating the Department placed it under the Secretary of State, with an Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs ranking as the permanent deputy head of the Department. The establishment of the Department involved no constitutional change.

In 1927, an amending act was passed placing the Department directly under the Prime Minister instead of the Secretary of State, and from April of that year the Prime Minister held the portfolio of Secretary of State for External Affairs. The appointment of a separate minister for the Department was considered with a view to the fact that the Department was to be a separate entity, and it was decided that the Department should be placed under the Prime Minister. In the early 1930s, the Department was placed under the Prime Minister. In 1930, the Department was placed under the Prime Minister. In 1930, the Department was placed under the Prime Minister.