

garding this subordination, they did not often resent or object to it, for they realized that greater powers would have to be accompanied by equivalent obligations. To advise, with the expectation of having the advice followed, implied taking responsibility, and on this both Mr. Asquith and Sir Wilfrid Laurier agreed: the former was unwilling to relinquish the responsibility of the Imperial Government, the latter was unwilling to assume it on behalf of his Dominion." (1)

The result of this situation, up to 1914, was that Canada's external affairs were acquiescently allowed to be controlled, as they had been for more than half a century, by the Colonial Office in Downing Street and the Foreign Office in Whitehall. There was, then, no need of a Canadian Foreign Office, but merely of an administrative bureau to facilitate internal business and assist the Prime Minister in technical matters.

The Department of External Affairs played an almost invisible role; it was, as has been said, a tool, an apparatus. It was not, in its first phase, a political department, but an administrative department. That is principally what Pope had claimed for it, and how it functioned under his aegis; it was what Earl Grey, the Governor General, had envisaged it - as a bureau to assist the Prime Minister; that is how Laurier accepted and regarded it, and how Borden utilized it.

(1) R. McGregor Dawson: The Development of Dominion Status, 1900-1936. p. 15.