

Seal with his Arms is ordered by the Department. The Governor General never sees it, and when he leaves the country the Seal remains behind. It is employed to sign instruments of lesser importance than those which pass the Great Seal. Among such documents are passports. Now passports are issued by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and these passports have in each case to be sent up to the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada to be sealed, which, apart from questions of convenience, scarcely comports with the dignity of a department of State presided over by the Prime Minister.

When in England a short time ago, the undersigned brought this anomaly to the attention of the Colonial Office, and was informed that there could be no objection to the Secretary of State of External Affairs having a special Seal in his department, which would obviate the necessity of sending documents for sealing to another department. It was pointed out to him that in England all Secretaries of State have seals of office, which are delivered on appointment, personally by the King. When a Secretary of State resigns his office, he hands them back to the King who keeps them until the new Secretary of State comes to receive them. Apart from reasons of convenience, it would therefore be eminently fitting that the Secretary of State for External Affairs should have in his keeping a Seal for sealing documents issued under his advice. The Colonial Office further pointed out that inasmuch as the use of the present Privy Council Seal rests altogether on usage, no Order-in-Council or other formal Act would be necessary to authorize the use of a second Seal. The undersigned asks the sanction of the Prime Minister to procure and use such a Seal to facilitate the issue of passports.

With reference to the general subject of the functions of the Department of External Affairs, the undersigned suggests that, following out the policy embodied in the constituting Act and Minute of Council of the 1st June, 1909, and in harmony with their provisions, it should be formally laid down that requests to the Governor General from other departments for communication to outside Governments, should be made only through the medium of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The undersigned ventures to hope that these suggestions may receive the consideration of the Prime Minister, and that in the event of their commending themselves to him, that the Minute of Council of the 1st June, 1909, may be amended accordingly. In any event the undersigned would seek to impress on Mr. Borden the extreme desirability of having some definite rule of action in respect of the above mentioned matters,