

new Dominions Office. In 1927 the Governor General's Office ceased to be the official channel of communication between the Dominion and Great Britain. Communications passed more directly between the Department of External Affairs and the Dominions Office. The communications and cyphering work was transferred from the Governor General's Office to the Department; and this was, while an extra burden, in reality a short-cut, eliminating Rideau Hall. The change from Colonial Office to Dominions Office made little difference in Ottawa. The raised position of the Canadian High Commissioner at London, and the appointment of a British High Commissioner at Ottawa, facilitated contacts and communications. The opening of High Commissioners' Office in the other Dominions of the Commonwealth, and of Legations in several foreign countries was soon to impose new duties and tasks on the Department, and necessitated staff expansion.

All these were consequences of the changing constitutional structure in the Empire and Commonwealth. That change in structure was the consequence of the long pressures, of preceding years or decades, for greater dominion autonomy in foreign relations. The attainment and formal recognition of this new status, advocated particularly by Smuts and Borden in 1917-1919, approved at the Imperial Conference of