

he will remain till the end of his days. If, on the contrary, he displays an intelligent interest in his work; if, ignoring hours and disregarding his own personal convenience, he is always at his post, 'never in the way and never out of the way', as Charles II used to say of the Earl of Godolphin, if he is assiduous in the performance of his duties; if he thinks for his minister and is ever on the alert to anticipate his wishes; if he is prudent, tactful, faithful, and discreet, he can make himself indispensable to his chief, and at the same time lay up a store of knowledge and experience that will stand him in good stead some day. The above is true of all private secretaries, but doubly so in the case of the private secretary to the prime minister, who holds one of the most onerous and responsible posts in the public service. So well is this recognized in England that the office is eagerly sought as the gate to high preferment." (1)

It does not appear that Pope himself was a typist, but he was a competent shorthand writer. At that time, there were relatively few typewriters in use. (They were introduced into the British Foreign Office only in 1878, five years before Pope became Macdonald's secretary). Even when the writing machine came, its use was not considered to be of the best form. The personal handwritten letter was preferred - even through the years of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Earl Grey.

Sir John did most of his work at Earnscliffe, his estate down on the banks of the Ottawa River ^{not far from} ~~being~~

(1) Pope. Canada and Its Provinces. VI. pp.356-7.