

the denominations, but had personal interviews with them, reporting fully afterwards to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He frequently called in Pope for consultation; and on at least one occasion, on Pope's absence, asked Walker to give him a memorandum on Pelagic Sealing - a curious (but with Grey, characteristic) intrusion into diplomatic business normally outside the role of a Governor General, and belonging rather to the Prime Minister or Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Nor was Grey averse to expressing his unsolicited advice, or protest, to the Prime Minister over ^{other} matters with which he disagreed, even though they were apparently of purely domestic or departmental concern. He had a very intimate friend of long-standing in James Bryce, then British Ambassador in Washington, (1907-1912), and was repeatedly reminding Laurier that Bryce was the best representative of Canadian interests in the United States that the Dominion could hope to have, and should be supported and commended accordingly. Numerous personal letters from Grey to Laurier make this point. Therefore Grey took umbrage when he learned that, without consultation with him, the Government proposed to appoint a Trade Commissioner to Washington, which he felt would be a reflection on Mr. Bryce.*

It is true that on some occasions Laurier felt that Bryce was partisan or one-sided in his efforts and seemed more concerned with keeping peaceful relations, through compromise and conciliation between the Imperial Government in Great Britain and the United States

* Referred to in chapter ²⁶ "Canadian Representation Abroad" .