

but also (as is more or less the case at the present moment) of the officer at present known as "the Under-Secretary of State."

The existence of two Secretaries of State, one for Home, the other for External Affairs, is so reasonable in itself and so accordant with British usage that I feel it would speedily commend itself to public opinion, in so far as public opinion takes any interest in such matters. (1)

It is incomprehensible why Pope should bombard the new Prime Minister with so many notes and memoranda on this subject, largely repetitious, unless Mr. Borden, in communications not on record, had replied to him and encouraged him to elucidate certain points.

Nevertheless, Pope ventured to send him still another memorandum, partly reviewing the past background of the Act of 1909 creating this Department of External Affairs and the Order-in-Council prescribing its procedure. The typed-in date of the typed memorandum, signed by Pope, is January 10th, 1912; but (possibly in error) Pope wrote across his file copy by pen, "November 30, 1911". (This may have been merely his private notation that the original had been drafted on that date, and was resurrected and retyped in January.)

The original Act was drafted with the intention that this Department should be presided over by the Prime Minister. For some reason of which I am ignorant, this was changed at the last moment, by the substitution of Secretary of State for Prime Minister, but Sir Wilfrid even in the beginning was so impressed with the necessity for his having supervision over

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(1) File 666/1912