A considerable portion of the correspondence
that passes through my hands relates to matters in
respect of which reference to the Provinces is
necessary - for example questions concerning local
laws, including education, the laws of property
of inheritance, etc., besides a number of routine
despatches containing invitations, requests for
reports for the War Office and Admiralty, for
verification of documents, births, marriages, deaths,
and so forth. Then again there are questions partly
Dominion and partly Provincial, e.g., the Labrador
Boundary.

So far, observing the implied instructions of
my late Minister, I have communicated with Lieutenant-
Governors in respect of all such matters, through
the Secretary of State of Canada, making his depart-
ment the channel of transmission. With the head of
this Department a Secretary of State, it would be
quite fitting for his Under-Secretary to communicate
with Lieutenant-Governors direct in respect of ex-
ternal affairs, thus obviating a very considerable
amount of perfectly needless circumlocation and con-
sequent delay. I am afraid that without drawing upon
the paramount authority of the Prime Minister, the
Department of External Affairs, with more occasion,
would have no more justification to communicate
with the Provinces direct than any other Department
of the Government.

Borden's reply is/available; he had just taken

office as Prime Minister and was no doubt hard beset

with numerous other urgent matters. Nevertheless, Pope

continued to nurse this idea for another year or more.

In Pope's opinion, law and practice would permit

any category of "Secretary of State", as by designation

one of the superior officers and ministers of the Crown,

to have the right to correspond with Lieutenant-Governors.

This had traditionally meant the Secretary of State of

Canada, because there was no other Secretary of State.

But when a Secretary of State for External Affairs was

additionally recognized, he held that this Minister

equally had the right, as another "Secretary of State",