

having a department of government specially organized and competent to deal with those subjects. International relations were not of such direct or domestic interest as, for example, fisheries or trade. The interconnection of foreign relations with overseas trade, or with fisheries, was not realized; therefore the importance of a specialized department, - something more than a coordinating bureau - was not appreciated.

Moreover, throughout this period up to about 1926, not only was it accepted that foreign policy was the preserve of the executive government, as Mr. Bennett said, acting in an advisory capacity to the Crown; but also it was normally accepted that imperial - and hence Canadian - external policy was controlled by the Imperial Government in London, through the Colonial Office which, while attentive to Canadian representations transmitted through the Governor General, advised the Crown. First, it was accepted by Laurier and his successors, that the British Government representing both the "mother country" of the colonial empire, and the senior imperial authority, was more experienced and better informed; had a wider purview of commonwealth and imperial problems and needs, and generally could be trusted by the dominions; "mother knew best". Secondly, it was recognized that Great Britain had competent diplomatic and consular machinery for the conduct of all such affairs; and the somewhat