

For the time being, this left the matter in abeyance. Earl Grey, who was so concerned, left Canada for good in 1911. As long as Mr. Murphy remained Secretary of State he desired no amendment, which he felt might hurt his prestige. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was dilatory, and, as usual, feared to stir up Opposition discussion and debate. Private assurances had been given to the Colonial Office that the word "conduct" was innocuous and did not imply any derogation of the Governor General's prerogatives.

A few years passed, the Borden Government came into Office, and a transfer of the Department was considered, placing it under the Prime Minister.

When the new Bill of 1912 was under discussion in the Legislature, the old controversy over the phrase "the conduct of all official communications" was revived by a telegram from Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the new Governor General, the Duke of Connaught, instructing him to remind the Canadian Ministers of the promise given by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the phrase would be altered.⁽¹⁾ When this telegram was communicated to the Government, the following memorandum was sent with it by Mr. C.J. Jones, Chief Clerk and Assistant Secretary to the Governor General:

Memorandum on Bill 58

When the original Act, creating the Department of External Affairs was drafted, Lord Grey wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier calling attention to the fact that the word "conduct" in clause 3 was not satisfactory, stating that "to give the Secretary of State

⁽¹⁾ Harcourt to Governor General. March 9, 1912.