

in writing"; perhaps both men were too "desk-bound". Pope "discussed" things with the Prime Minister, - as Laurier stated, - and sometimes with the Governor General, Earl Grey, and his written notes to them are fewer. But with his own Minister, there are more written notes and memoranda, and fewer hints of personal discussions.

In an exchange of notes of July, 1910, as we have seen^{*} Mr. Murphy asked Pope, by letter, to prepare his Department's annual report; and Pope replied that most of the report was completed, and he was "awaiting an opportunity to talk it over," and hoped that Mr. Murphy could spare him a few minutes to discuss the draft. This suggests that the two men were on a basis of formal relationship rather than on an intimate basis of personal collaboration. This apparent distinction of relationships is, however, possibly exaggerated. It was the custom (and to some extent still is) to indite or dictate notes and memoranda from desk to desk or from room to room or from colleague to colleague, as readily as discussing matters in a personal chat. Grey, the very energetic Governor General, not only discussed matters personally with Sir Wilfrid Laurier almost daily (their offices being on the same floor of the East Block), but sent him flurries of little handwritten notes and memoranda. Pope no doubt had personal discussions with Mr. Murphy (although his offices were far remote in different buildings) as often as he wrote him interdepartmental letters and memoranda. It is not possible to draw any deductions from the

^{*} See Chapter "Confidential Prints and Annual Reports."