

of Council passed many years ago, it is laid down that the Secretary of State of Canada shall be the channel of communication with the Lieutenant-Governors, and that any department desiring to correspond with the Provinces, shall do so through the Secretary of State of Canada. Under the old order of things this was an excellent provision but the undersigned submits that the changed conditions effected by the establishment of the Department of External Affairs calls for a modification of its terms, the literal observance of which by his Department entails a duplicate set of correspondence and much consequent circumlocution and delay. He feels that it would greatly facilitate the business of his office if he were authorized to correspond direct with the various Lieutenant-Governors in respect of External Affairs, instead of as at present through the circuitous route indicated above. In so doing there would be no departure from constitutional usage, for Secretaries of State are co-equal and co-ordinate. They are the authorized channels through which the Crown communicates to any part of the body politic, and Todd expressly lays down that "either of them may be empowered to convey the King's commands at any time, to any person." (Parliamentary Government in England. Vol.II, p.609. See also Anson's Law and Custom of the Constitution, Vol.II. pp.168-9).)

2. It is suggested that all matters relating to Honours, Titles, Precedence and the like, so far as they are dealt with departmentally, should appertain to the Prime Minister. Sir John Macdonald kept them primarily in his own hands - Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the other hand would have nothing to do with them, and under his administration, so far as they were dealt with at all, they drifted in a loose and indefinite sort of way to the Secretary of State of Canada. They are not, however, strictly speaking, subjects for collective ministerial advice, but are rather matters for informal communication between the Governor General and his chief adviser, in whose hands they should remain. The fact of the First Minister being the Secretary of State for External Affairs, renders this extremely easy to effect, for he has merely to retain in his own hands the despatches that reach him on the subject.

There remains to be considered the question of Seals. The Secretary of State of Canada is the custodian of the Great Seal, which was adopted by Order-in-Council at the time of Confederation and renewed on the various demises of the Crown. In addition, there is kept in his Department what is styled the "Privy Seal", that is, a small seal having the Arms of the Governor-General of the day engraved thereon. The use of this Seal is governed altogether by custom.

On the arrival of a new Governor General a