

difficulty in the way," and Pope added "I understand that I can get this work done free gratis and for nothing".

It would take a small fortune, he wrote, to do the printing I require done at the ruinous rates charged by the Printing Bureau, and there is this additional advantage in the plan I suggest, that having the printing done in the building will save a lot of copying as the printer can set direct from the files.

As the letter was marked in ink "Approved, C.M., S.S." Mr. Pope was doubtless relieved, his Department was saved "ruinous" costs, and the production of Confidential Prints was expedited. It was a great convenience and satisfaction to him to know that this portion of his busy labours was actively progressing in a printing room "over his head".

In the first Annual Report of the Department of External Affairs for the year ending March 31, 1910, Pope commented that "In addition to the current business of the Department, a highly important and laborious part of its work is the laying of foundations for its greater usefulness by collecting and arranging the papers recording the history of Canada's external relations. Good progress has been made in the work, especially as regards the more recent papers, but much remains to be done."⁽¹⁾ More than two years after this practice had been initiated, Mr. Pope reviewed its operation, not without satisfaction, but said "This system is yet in its infancy." He attributed whatever success it had achieved largely to the encouragement and practical help accorded to him by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and used this argument, among others,

⁽¹⁾ Report of Department of External Affairs, 1909-10, p.7.