

was not only kept informed of the progress of self-government in the Dominion and of its policies, domestic, imperial and foreign, but was also in a position to approve, disapprove, support or guide the Colonial Government. The Governor General played an intermediate role; informing Downing Street, passing on Canadian requests to Downing Street, adding his own advice or comments to the Canadian representations, frequently explaining to London and justifying, from his special knowledge and sympathies, Canadian policies. On occasion, in the past, he would even submit to the Colonial Office a draft of the reply they might consider sending to some Canadian enquiry or representation.

After the establishment in 1880 of a Canadian High Commissioner in England, this regular channel was supplemented by correspondence addressed by the Prime Minister direct to the High Commissioner, who was authorized on appropriate occasions to communicate or discuss the contents with the Colonial Office, Foreign Office, or other department of the Imperial Government concerned. This overlapping occasionally caused complaint on the part of the Governor General, or on the part of the High Commissioner if he were not kept concurrently advised of the Governor General's despatches to the Colonial Office.

During the First War, the practice also developed of direct correspondence between the Dominion Prime Minister and the British Prime Minister, but this again was supplementary to the regular official channel through the Governor General. Likewise, even in Laurier's