

of experience which Pope was dedicated to for seven years. As private secretary, he became to the first Confederation Premier, his intimate confidant, his assistant, guide, counsellor, and friend, and, subsequently, his authorized biographer and editor of his correspondence. He was ever at the elbow of his chief, enjoying his confidence, sharing his joys and sorrows, revelling in his stories and anecdotes, and helping him through problems that were perplexing and work that was exacting. On almost all Macdonald's political tours, Joseph Pope travelled with him, often serving as a buffer between him and the importunate followers seeking an interview or a favour. It was a position which called for great tact and diplomacy, and one which Pope fulfilled to the satisfaction of all.

An interesting gloss on the position of Private Secretary was written by Pope in 1912, possibly with a retrospective glance at his own seven-year service as Private Secretary to Macdonald. "The importance of the office depends largely upon the aptitudes of the incumbent, and the personal relations existing between him and his chief. A practical knowledge of shorthand and typewriting is nowadays essential. With this equipment a private secretary can conduct the mechanical part of correspondence, but if that be the limit of his usefulness, he falls far short of the requirements of the office and of what his minister has a right to expect of him. No position is so completely what the holder chooses to make it as that of private secretary to a minister of the crown. If he is content to act as an amanuensis only, with one eye on the clock, an amanuensis