

Separation of External Affairs Portfolio.

From the time when, in 1912, the Department of External Affairs, then a small bureau, was placed in charge of the Prime Minister, there were moments when it was felt that, despite all the advantages of integration and collaboration, the double burden was inconvenient to the ~~bundled~~ Premier and not in the best interests of the Department's own administration. Borden had favoured the combination, but according to Mr. King, Bennett at first favoured a divorcement but acquiesced in the joint control. During Mr. King's regime, the Opposition urged the divorcement, but Mr. King resisted this steadily until 1946.

The ultimate measures taken to establish a separate portfolio of External Affairs, under a separate Minister, belong to a period beyond the present survey, but the action taken may be described here as an Annex.

The separation of the Department of External Affairs from the Prime Minister's Office - a reversal of the arrangement brought about in 1912 under Sir Robert Borden - was repeatedly urged, both inside and outside of Parliament. But up to 1946 Mr. Mackenzie King, as Prime Minister, asserted the practical necessity of this combination of offices during war-time, but admitted the desirability of separation in normal times. <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Skilling: (loc. cit. p.284, n.100) has cited the following references: Round Table; Vol.19, 1928-29, pp. 837-8; F.H. Soward, Canada's New International Responsibilities, (Contemporary Review, Vol.134, 1928, p.598); A.J. Toynbee, ed., British Commonwealth Relations, p.190; Hon. Vincent Massey, Proceedings, Canadian Club of Toronto, Vol.XXXI, 1933-34, pp.140-1; League of Nations Society in Canada, Report of Annual Meeting, 1934, pp.23-30, 59, 67; Mackay and Rogers, Canada Looks Abroad, pp.201-2,217-8; R.MacG. Dawson, The Development of Dominion Status, p.129; Toronto Globe and Mail, Nov.3, 1942, April 23, 1943, July 16, 1943. King: House of Commons Debates, July 12, 1943, pp.4670-1.