MISS M. MORLEY. INFORMATION DIVISION, LANGEVIN BLOCK.

FAO RP-A-25

Affaires

REFERENCE PAPE RS March, 1946 when a bill was introduced to repeat the section of the act of

1912 which provided that the Frime Minister was to be the Secretary of 3 tel entron suit bos S Lings "INFORMATION DIVISION Dept. of Foreign Anteresta DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL OTTAWA - CANADA Louis St. Laurent agride OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 69 of a leastion is Torong At about the sale time, the United Piscy Vinsi

(Revised March 1966) telanoo lists tesbom s ditw a Retourner à la bibliothèque du Ministère ns SIEL al extero rol bra estelo letto Testvol lepel s EIEL al bas bebbs sew vistoreed-robait énstates

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

and the growth of Canadian responsibilities abread made expanaton inevitable Historical Background "sbane) tedt these viprisseront emsoed it .0001 rettA

longer be conveniently handled by the British diplomatic and consular From Confederation until 1914, Canada's position in the British Empire was essentially that of a self-governing colony, whose external relations were directed and controlled by the Imperial Government in Great Britain through the Colonial Office and through the Governor General. By 1914, however, Canada and the other dominions had acquired considerable de facto power in the field of external relations. Partly because of its increasing importance in world affairs and partly out of a growing desire for autonomous status which had been fostered particularly during the First World War, Canada therefore sought, within the existing constitutional framework of the Empire, a fuller control over its own external relations -- a process which culminated in the Imperial Conference of 1926. A strong deally of the econybe nA came as the result of an agreement reached at the Imperial Conference.

Canada's first efforts concerning its own external relations, in the early 1900's, merely took the form of creating improved administrative machinery at home. The first suggestion that a separate department of external affairs be established, on the precedent of the government structure in Australia, came from Joseph (later Sir Joseph) Pope, then Under-Secretary of State, in 1907. Jecos and of betoenib esw stanmarshop apierol most bas mobad External Affaire instead of to the Governor Cone

In May 1909, under the Laurier Government which introduced the bill, Parliament authorized the establishment of a "Department of External Affairs". The title indicated that it was to deal with Canada's relations with other governments within the British Empire as well as with foreign powers. The act creating the Department placed it under the Secretary of State, with an Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to rank as the permanent deputy head of the Department. The establishment of the Department brought no constitutional change institutes and institution of ficials ... They ware appointed. ghan the the Theividual departments of the Canadian Government and did not enley

In 1912, an emending act was passed placing the Department directly under the Prime Minister, instead of the Secretary of State, and from April 1 of that year the Prime Minister held the additional portfolio of Secretary of State for External Affairs. The appointment of a separate minister for the Department was considered from time to time, but no action was taken until

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