

Communications with Lieutenant-Governors

There had been in 1880 a dispute whether the Secretary of State of Canada, representing the Federal Government, should-for the sake of convenience and to avoid delays - correspond with the Provinces directly with the Provincial Secretary, instead of through the Lieutenant Governor; but the latter channel, already agreed to in 1869, was retained.

But later, after 1909, a lengthy dispute arose as to whether, with external documents, the Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Mulvey) or the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, should communicate directly with the Lieutenant Governor. The old practice^x was preserved, but with increasing dissatisfaction on Pope's part because of delays and lack of "follow-up" by the Secretary of State's Department, - which injured the External Affairs Department's prestige vis-a-vis the Colonial Office and foreign Governments. This problem perturbed Pope for a year or two, and came to a head in 1911.

On November 29, 1911, for example, we find Mr. Pope writing Mr. Borden in part as follows:

Referring to my letter of the 25th instant on the subject of the title of this Department, may I add one word in support of my desire that you would confirm by Parliamentary sanction the present title of Secretary of State for External Affairs.

^x The medium of formal communication between the Federal and Provincial Governments through the Lieutenant-Governors was a relic of the Office of the Secretary of State for the Provinces, which existed only from 1867 to 1873 and was distinct and separate from that of the Secretary of State of Canada, and was occupied by different incumbents from the latter. (C. Stein to J. Leger, letter dated April 23, 1958).