

only those that be sworn into the said Council, but if they be specially called thereto by authority of the said Council.'" (1)

Somewhat of a reversed situation occurred during the war, when the Prime Minister received secret despatches which he had to ask London's permission to show to the Governor General. During the First War, Prime Ministers were talking to Prime Ministers in London meetings, and corresponding direct with one another. In 1916 Bonar Law sent Borden some confidential documents which he said were for him alone and Borden cabled for permission to show them to the Governor General, the Duke of Devonshire, before destroying them. This was granted and after December, 1916, the Imperial Government decided to send a weekly letter on the progress of events for the Governor General and Prime Minister only. (2)

Fear of breach of secret correspondence from London was commented on by Crewe in 1910, though Canada was more or less exonerated. In the last secret personal letter to Earl Grey, Governor General, which Lord Crewe wrote, on October 29, 1910, before he left the Colonial Office for the India Office, he said:

I have often thought over the possibility of giving more information overseas on Foreign Affairs. The cardinal difficulty which applies far less to your domains than to all the others, is that the obligation of secrecy is not maintained. It would be awkward, too, to receive protests, founded on necessarily incomplete knowledge, and to be obliged to override them; but this last objection has to be set in the balance against the advantage of common consultation and action. (3)

(1) Dicey: The Privy Council. p.44; cit. in Lord Hankey: Diplomacy by Conference p.42.

(2) R.L. Borden. Memoirs. 11. pp.624-5.

(3) Grey of Howith Correspondence. Vol.16. File 45. (Doc. 004376).