

In this debate Mr. J.A. Currie said:

I wish to say to the Prime Minister that it would help us a great deal in arriving at a decision on this matter if we had statistics of the number of these despatches received daily, or monthly, and the necessity for the department.

Laurier replied:

That is a very fair question. I have not the statistics today~~day~~, but I will have them at the next stage of this Bill; I shall be happy to bring down all the statistics the hon. gentleman has mentioned.

Apparently, however, these statistics were not produced in Parliament. \*

During the debates, a few objections or misgivings were expressed. These included the dislike of creating not only a new department or sub-department, but a new portfolio under a separate Minister; it was felt that the Cabinet was already unwieldy in numbers. There was the misgiving over additional costs for a new Department and staff. There was the fear that Canada was entering into a new field of independent foreign affairs, and setting up a "foreign office", or that its constitutional dependence on the Imperial Government and Colonial Office might be undermined. The aspect of training specialists in international affairs - one of Pope's objectives - was discussed. The risks of breaches of security and secrecy of confidential documents was emphasized, and some discussion occurred over the meaning of "conduct of correspondence."

Sir Robert Borden, in his Memoirs, summarizes

\* A note found in Departmental file 1 EA/57, however, gives the following data:

<u>Despatches Received by the Governor General, 1908.</u>	
From Colonial Office .....	1,252
From His Majesty's Representatives abroad ..	251
From Governors of Colonies .....	36
From His Majesty's and Foreign Consuls .....	57
	<u>1,596</u>