

pursuing this aim personally after his return to England until the War of 1914 terminated his efforts, Grey made no headway, and a separate Dominions Office did not materialize until 1925.

At the Imperial Conference of 1911, the question of a separate Office, or even a Department under a separate Permanent Under-Secretary for Dominion Affairs, was renewed, mainly by the New Zealand Premier, but was unsuccessful. Sir Wilfrid Laurier on that occasion - disappointing the expectations and hopes of his Governor General, Earl Grey - was lukewarm, and declared:

The whole object of this motion is, as I understand the motions that go before it, to provide a means of communication between the Imperial Government and the autonomous Governments of the Empire. Such a means of communication already exists, and, for my part, I must say that we are quite satisfied with the present system. The Colonial Office has been reorganized some three years ago, and I repeat what I said in Parliament, that in its present form it has given to us at all events in Canada, ample satisfaction. As to whether it would be advisable to further bisect the present organization, or put it on a different political standing, though I and my colleagues are satisfied with what exists we would not offer any objection if the other members of the Conference are disposed to press the point.

The Australian representatives did not discuss the proposal, and the representatives of the Union of South Africa said that they found the arrangement of 1907 working very satisfactorily and stated explicitly that they did not desire any further bifurcation of the Office. Thus the Colonial Office, through its Dominion Department, continued to dominate and control the official relationships between the Home Government and the Dominion Government overseas, using the Governor General as the official channel of correspondence, for the period covered by this survey, i.e., until the new