

As to your wish that the little difference on official matters may in no sense affect the pleasant relations which have existed between us, I beg leave to say that I regard matters such as those under discussion as of a purely business nature, and that I have difficulty in understanding how such a discussion can in any way affect our personal relations. I have merely the interests of the Government and of my Department in view, and my only purpose is to make business relations between our Departments more smooth. Under these circumstances, a plain discussion of the matter is all that is necessary to accomplish our purpose. In passing, I may say that such smoothness and pleasantness is not added to by statements you make for the purpose of calling them absurd, when a person who had not read all the correspondence would believe that they were made by me. I refer to this not in any carping way, but merely for the purpose of suggesting that the impersonal and business method of dealing with them is more likely to lead to the solution of the difficulties involved.

Meanwhile, Mulvey expressed the intention of referring the points at issue to his chief, Dr. Roche, and Pope forwarded a complete outline and summary of the contentious matter to his chief, Sir Robert Borden.

On October 14th, Pope returned to the discussion with Mulvey, repeating his own arguments, and concluded:

I may add that the concluding sentence in my letter of the 13th June was prompted by an impression, variously derived, that you rather resented my action on these purely official concerns as in some way unfriendly to yourself, an impression which the tone of your last letter does not wholly dispel.

On the next day, October 15th, Mulvey replied in a not unconciliatory tone, but added:

I beg to add that you are absolutely in error with respect to the impression you had - no matter how it may have been derived - that I resent any official matter as unfriendly to myself, and I regret that anything in my last letter should have added to that impression. My object in this correspondence is purely of a business nature, and although I may be unfortunate in some of my expressions, I have no desire to have any personal element whatever enter into the matter.