

releasing him to the Department of External Affairs, he would keep him at least within arms reach in an adjacent office, as well as having Mr. Pope within reach for frequent consultation. His dependence on the nominal Secretary of State for External Affairs, Charles Murphy, was very much less; and indeed in one or two of Grey's letters to Sir Wilfrid Laurier he referred rather acrimoniously <sup>to</sup> ~~about~~ Murphy, for whom evidently he did not have the same high regard as he had for Pope and Walker. He recognized the qualities of Joseph Pope in matters of protocol. In one letter he wrote by hand to Laurier, he said: "I have been looking into the tiresome Precedence question with that high authority Pope, & with his assistance, have prepared an amended table which I should like to discuss with you. . ."(1)

If considerable attention has been given to the role of Earl Grey, the Governor General from 1904 to 1911, it is because of his very influential role in the history of Canada's conduct of external relations during that period which coincided in part with the Laurier regime. Earl Grey was among the first, in 1908, to urge the creation of a special Department of External Affairs; he, with Lord Strathcona, was among the first, as early as 1906, to propose the appointment of a Canadian attaché to the British Embassy in Washington; (although he later withdrew this suggestion, and even objected to a subsequent proposal to appoint a Canadian Trade Commissioner to Washington); he was the proponent of a separate Dominions Office in London; he was in the lead in believing

(1) Laurier Papers. Governor General's Correspondence. (Doc. 207282).