this time, and the more so in Canada for
the reason that they have never been
separated. The Department of External
Affairs originated under Sir Wilfrid
Laurier's administration, Sir Joseph
Pope being the first deputy minister,
and from that time to the present the two
offices have been actually working together
as one, so much so that the Prime Minister
gets no appropriation from parliament and
what he receives in the way of salary
comes to him from external affairs. Matters
of book-keeping and many other things of
the Prime Minister's office are managed by
External Affairs. The two have been carried
on, on the business side, pretty much ex-
clusively by the Department of External
Affairs.

I could enlarge upon what I have said,
but I hope I have made clear to the committee
that at this time it would be practically
impossible to separate the two offices. I
think they should be separated, and I hope
I may have something to do with seeing that
they are; but so long as the war continues,
I am afraid it will be necessary to keep
them together.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr.
Fraser, has recently telegraphed me that he
himself will feel it necessary to hold the
portfolio of minister of external affairs.
I can understand that.[1]

Again, in the following session, in answer

to a question by Mr. Graydon, Leader of the Oppos-

ition in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister

returned to this subject in the following words:

I believe it was about a year ago I
spoke about this matter, and indicated that,
personally, I would greatly welcome having at
an appropriate time the portfolio of external
affairs held by another minister of the crown.
But since the war began, it has been almost
impossible to separate some of the questions
which come before the government for consider-
ation from the Prime Minister's office and
the Department of External Affairs. It would
have been very difficult for the Prime Min-
ister from day to day to have done other than
have most of his time taken up with matters
relating to external affairs.

(1) Ibid. 1943, Vol.V., pp.4670-4671.