

In the early part of 1910 Lord Grey returned to this subject, to which he had given his unreserved support, and started again prodding Sir Wilfrid for a Minute on the matter, which might receive Council consideration and might then be incorporated in the Canadian agenda proposals for the 1911 Imperial Conference. As in the parallel suggestions for a Department of External Affairs, equally espoused by Earl Grey, he was impatiently frustrated and exasperated by Laurier's inherent tendency toward procrastination, and also by the excessive "modesty" which he attributed to Laurier. On January 10, 1910, he wrote by hand to Laurier:

You will remember that on your return from the Conference in 1907, in discussing the results of the Conference you pointed out to me that although the resolution of H.M. Government to make a complete separation of the Departments of the Colonial Office dealing with:

1. the Self-Governing Dominions;
2. the Crown Colonies, Protectorates, Spheres of Influence, etc.,

was a satisfactory step forward towards the fuller recognition of the autonomy of the Dominions, in your opinion it was desirable that further steps should be taken in this direction, and that the Department of His Majesty's Government dealing with the affairs relating to the self-governing Dominions, should be a separate Department under a roof of its own, and with a Minister of its own.

On more than one occasion since, we have had discussions on the same subject, in which I have unreservedly concurred in your <sup>view</sup> that such a change as you have suggested is inevitable, demanded as it is by the dignity of the Dominions, and by the growing consciousness that they have risen from the status of subordinate to the higher position of co-ordinate States in the Empire.

I have received private intimation from London that it seems certain that the next Conference will consider this proposition.

I confess I should like, for many reasons, the lead in this direction to be given by Canada, who