

~~and General Secretary.~~

His instructions were sweeping; he could send secret and confidential despatches, sometimes his own, and sometimes forwarding communications or memoranda from Canadian Departments or the Privy Council, with or without his own gloss; he could send unofficial and private letters addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; he was required to send numerous copies of Canadian statutes, legislative enactments, departmental reports, and other official documents; and collections of representative press clippings.

Under the Instructions to the Governor General of Canada of 1878, "Our said Governor General is to take care that all laws assented to by him in Our name, or reserved for the signification of Our pleasure thereon, shall, when transmitted by him, be fairly abstracted in the margins, and be accompanied, in such cases as may seem to him necessary, with such explanatory observations as may be required to exhibit the reasons and occasions for proposing such laws; and he shall also transmit fair copies of the Journals and Minutes of the proceedings of the Parliament of Our said Dominion, which he is to require from the clerks or other proper officers in that behalf, of the said Parliament". (1) This practice was retained until dropped from the Instructions in 1935.

Through all these methods, the Colonial Office

(1) Canadian Sessional Papers. 1879. No. XIV.
W.P.M. Kennedy: Constitutional Documents of Canada. p.675.