

a day. In them he would make suggestions, or propose amendments or replies, or frequently would prod Sir Wilfrid to hasten Council action. He was a great prodder. It seems probable that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was so overburdened with administrative and Council business, besides his Parliamentary and public duties, that he could not keep abreast of all the diplomatic business, and the external despatches that called for decisions or replies. It is possible that Sir Wilfrid was slowed down by the Privy Council; in several instances he could not go forward as much as he and Grey personally wished, because of the known opposition of certain Ministers in the Cabinet whom he did not want to coerce or offend. It is possible that under the strain he was occasionally forgetful of outstanding matters that needed prompt attention. Grey was forever needling or "punching" him in personal notes. "May I remind you . . ." was a common theme of his numerous letters.

Grey spent a good portion of his day in his office in the East Block. He read the despatches, wrote his letters commenting on them, signed the large numbers of Minutes-in-Council, and personally studied most of his material, even trade statistics, making his own notes which he would then comment on, in more letters to the Prime Minister. In addition to this flurry of daily notes to Sir Wilfrid, he had consultations with him several times a week. Many of his notes concluded with appointments to "discuss further" the matter at issue "this afternoon"; or followed up such conversations