

Occasionally Earl Grey would submit, under his personal note, some communication from the Colonial Office or a British Ambassador, and would suggest the mode of reply, and ^{would} ~~offer~~ to prepare a reply, under advice, himself. For example, on December 24, 1909, he wrote to Laurier privately:

I enclose a semi-official letter addressed to me by Mr. Bryce in his reply to my request for an expression of his views as to the possibility of making use of the opportunity afforded by the approaching Centenary of the Treaty of Ghent for the purpose of prolonging for another century the policy of the Rush-Bagot Treaty.

As Mr. Bryce's communication covering Mr. Young's valuable memorandum has not taken the form of an official despatch, it does not require an official answer, but if you should desire to convert this semi-official communication into an official despatch, to be formally answered, I shall be obliged if you will return it to me and I will put it into proper shape. (1)

An illustration of the procedure of communication in the 1910 period is found in correspondence on the Immigration Bill. Lord Crewe, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, wrote a formal despatch "Canada. No.200" from Downing Street, on March 19, 1910, to Grey drawing attention to some misgivings over restrictions on British Indians: "My Lord, The Secretary of State for India has under consideration a copy of the Immigration Bill (No. 102) which was read a first time in the Canadian House of Commons on the 19th January last . . ." After communicating the substance of the India Office observations, the despatch concludes - "I shall be glad if you will lay this despatch before your Ministers." (2) Grey chose to deal with this in a private way. He wrote

(1) Laurier Papers. Governor General's correspondence, 1909. Letter No. 206458.

(2) Doc. 170289.