

"It is not expected of a Minister that he should carry in his mind all the details of the office, which have to be gathered by the deputy minister. The time of the minister is too precious, he would not be able to do justice to his department if he were compelled to keep in mind all the details which properly come before the deputy minister. I may say to my hon. friend that he would need such a deputy minister as he had under him before. I may say to him that when I came into office, now twelve years ago, and when despatches began to come in relating to foreign affairs, I had not in the Department of the Privy Council any official who could inform me, or upon whom I could rely; I had to go to another officer, who is fortunately well qualified for that position. I have no hesitation in giving his name, Mr. Pope, the under-secretary - and get from him all the information I needed relating to those foreign affairs, before I could come to a decision and advise my colleagues, or His Excellency the Governor General, in relation thereto." (1)

It is clear from the debates on the Bill that it was assumed or it had been made known, even before the Bill was introduced in Parliament, that the prescribed Under-Secretary who was to be head of the new Department of External Affairs would be Mr. Joseph Pope, to be transferred from his former department to the new one. On this assumption, his name as the prospective

(1) Ibid. 1909. pp.1998-9.