

At the Colonial Conference of 1907, at which an Imperial Conference Secretariat was established under the Colonial Office, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "The Colonial Office, which is already divided into departments, is the proper Department to deal, under Ministerial responsibility, with the self-governing Colonies and Crown Colonies"

But a suggestion came from elsewhere, for removing the "Dominions" work from the Colonial Office. It was put forward by Mr. Deakin, and also by Sir Joseph Ward for New Zealand. Mr. Deakin said:

It appears to me that it would be for the advantage of the Colonial Office, and it would be to our advantage, if we were dissociated altogether from the Dependencies which are governed, and admirably governed, from this Office." . . . "I do not belittle the work of the Colonial Office - it is simply gigantic - but the Colonial Office finds it necessary to omit India. It was recognized to be perfectly impossible for this Office to include the administration of that vast country with its enormous population. In the same way the Colonial Office must expect to see the self-governing communities outgrow its capacity for control, which is not capable of being indefinitely extended. . . You have an enormous task of administration there" (in the Crown Colonies); "but the successful administration of those Colonies calls for methods of administration and treatment and begets an attitude of mind based on presuppositions and preconceptions, which cannot be escaped from but which do not at all attach to self-governing states, which are quite foreign to us, and give us a general sense of discussing a question with persons who have already made up their minds upon it on another basis altogether. Consequently, it is no reflection to say that this great department has already ample and growing work on its hands apart from the self-governing communities, and that in the course of time it must expect to see these communities, first of all relieving the Department by undertaking a good deal more for themselves, and next, by sending their despatches to the Prime Minister, where they will not be jostled in a Department overburdened with administrative work alike and yet different in character. . . The whole tendency of the whole of