

not the Secretary of State, but the Premier. The "company" was formed, and then its appropriate presiding director was to be designated.

This was possibly an inversion. Earl Grey, it is true, in reference to the proposed London reforms, first wished for a new and separate Dominions Office, and then considered that the Prime Minister, if practicable, should head it and if not, possibly the Lord President of the Privy Council. But Earl Grey, in advocating a special Department of External Affairs in Canada, conceived it - as some members of Parliament did - merely as a bureau or group of special advisers attached to the Prime Minister; in other words, not a Department of State per se, but a Prime Minister's advisory bureau; virtually a special section of the Prime Minister's Office.* This conception would automatically take this group away from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State and bring it under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister; but at the same time it would reduce it from being an independent department of State to a subordinate position of being an advisory bureau. The debates on the 1912 Bill show that some of the members of Parliament conceived, as Earl Grey did in 1910, that this was all that was necessary.

* Even after the new department became a true, distinct, Department of State, under a Minister, a portion of it was, in fact, coopted and seconded into the Prime Minister's Office as a bureau of advisers and assistants: e. g. the Private Secretaries, from External Affairs, and a considerable clerical and filing and messenger staff.