

The first draft omitted referring the external affairs despatches to the Prime Minister, probably because it had been struck out of Pope's original draft of the Bill itself, when "the Secretary of State" was substituted. In his second draft, however, dated May 29th, Pope reinserted a sentence referring all despatches in the first instance to the First Minister, in accordance with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's wishes.

The final version adopted on June 1st by Council as P.C. 1242 is given below, together with the alterations, and original portions suggested by Pope in his first and second submitted drafts.

P.C. 1242
Certified copy of a Report of the Committee of
the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency
the Governor General on the 1st June, 1909.*

The Committee of the Privy Council, who have had under consideration the question of the constitution of the Department of External Affairs, are of opinion that it would further the purposes for which the Department was established, if all Despatches, at present communicated by your Excellency to the Privy Council, or direct to individual Ministers, should be in the first instance, referred to the Prime Minister, [This phrase was omitted in Pope's first draft of May 25th submitted to Mr. Murphy, but was inserted in his second draft of May 29th, and also to the Secretary of State as head of the Department of External Affairs, which Department shall then distribute them among the several Departments to which they relate, for the necessary consideration and action, and the Committee recommend accordingly.

[In Pope's first draft of May 25th, he included the following additional paragraph:

In like manner, all outgoing communications in respect of any of the above mentioned subjects, shall be made through the Department of External Affairs.

* See however page 7.. The Governor General had left Canada before this date.