

the Dominions conscious that they were no longer mere Crown Colonies administered by British governors; and therefore they wished to be controlled, if controlled from London they must be, by an organ distinct from the organ responsible for the more politically backward Colonies. Largely for psychological reasons, they wished to be emancipated from a ^{colonialistic} ~~colonialistic~~ administration. At the Conference of 1907, Mr. Deakin of Australia and Sir Joseph Ward of New Zealand urged that the Colonial Office should be reformed from an organization based on geographical lines to one based on relative status. The result was the division of the Colonial Office into three instead of two branches, by the creation of a new "Dominions Department", under a senior Assistant Under-Secretary. The Crown Colonies Department and the General Department continued. In his despatch (Cd.3795) of September 21, 1907, announcing this change, Lord Elgin wrote in part:

The first of these three Departments will be known as the Dominions Department, the term being used to differentiate the status of the self-governing provinces of the Empire from that of the Crown Colonies. All the business of every kind connected with the self-governing communities will be included in its scope, though certain matters of general routine must necessarily be shared with the General Department; and the staff of the Dominions Department will, with the exception mentioned above, be in no way concerned with the Crown Colonies. (1)

This was only a step. From 1908 to 1911 the Governor General of Canada, Earl Grey, urged with what he thought was the support of Laurier, that the British authorities establish an independent Dominions Office under a separate Secretary of State; but, even

(1) Cit. in Dewey. The Dominions and Diplomacy. I. p.121.