

on June 13, 1912, a letter of remonstrance to him, pointing this out, with a reasoned argument. In the course of the letter, he said:

I think perhaps the root of the difficulty is to be found in the erroneous view generally held in this community that the office of Secretary of State is necessarily one and indivisible; that the Secretary of State of Canada is the Secretary of State, and that the office of Secretary of State for External Affairs is, if not exactly subordinate, at any rate, a lesser dignity which has been evolved from the former. I need not of course remind you that under the British system there may be, and are, in England several Secretaries of State of equal rank. Now the Secretary of State for External Affairs (as such) is as much a Secretary of State, as the Secretary of State of Canada (who is the Secretary of State for Home Affairs), and the Department over which the former presides, is as truly and properly a department of state as the Department hitherto more commonly associated with that name, or any other department of the public service. A glance at the statute and constituting Order-in-Council of the Department of External Affairs will I think bear out this view. . .

Pope then concludes his letter raisonné in this paragraph:

I trust that these little differences on official matters may in no sense affect the pleasant relations which have hitherto existed between us. I have no doubt we shall get disentagled after a while, and pursue our respective courses without danger of collision.

In his reply, dated October 2nd, delayed because of his absences, Mulvey said:

My sole and only reason for taking up the subject under discussion is to effect, if possible, an orderly method of doing business between our Departments. Of late there has been considerable discussion of overlapping of work between various Departments, and of the confusion which sometimes arises in determining the exact Department with which transactions should be had. I deem it my duty to prevent, if possible, the creation of difficulties such as this, and to prevent the spread of this anomalous state of affairs.

Mulvey then discusses without rancour his view on certain particular issues which had become contentious, and then concludes: