

Mr. Pope was nothing if not persistent when it came to this vexing question. He wrote the following on July 8, 1913, to Mr. Perley, in answer to a verbal enquiry:

I have ascertained that on the third floor of the East Block the Department of Indian Affairs have, in all, eight rooms, three on the West side of the corridor, four on the opposite side, and one round the corner in the corridor of the Secretary of State. These rooms would be sufficient for my present needs, though they would leave no room to expand. I dare say, however, I might manage to secure a room or two upstairs later on.

With reference to your remarks about the Indian Department, in a certain contingency, being divided, one portion in one building and one portion in another, I may observe that such a state of things is by no means unusual at the present time. For instance, the Department of the Interior is located, I think, in ten different buildings throughout the city; the Deputy Minister is in the Langevin Building, the Secretary is over a bank in Wellington Street, the Assistant Secretary is in Sparks Street, while the Accountant is in the Trafalgar Building in Bank Street. A portion of the Auditor General's Office is in the East Block, another portion is in the McNeill building in Queen Street, while still another is in the Canadian Building. Part of the Marine Department is in the West Block, part in the Canadian Building, and part in the Birks building, and so on.

Mr. (later Sir George) Perley's immediate reply to this submission of Pope's has not been found in the records; but he may have interceded, for some months later, matters were adjusted and the Indian Affairs Department yielded some space.

East Block at Last!

The time at last came when Pope's Department was able to return to its appropriate location in the East Block. On June 19, 1914, Pope wrote to Mr. Hunter, the Deputy Minister of Public Works: