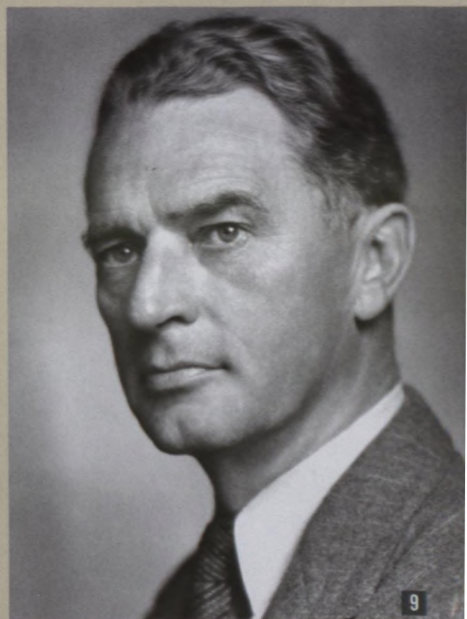


The Department's first under-secretary, Joseph Pope, was staunchly loyal to the British connection and had no desire to see Canada undertake its own foreign policy; if the *External Affairs Act* had any autonomist implications, Pope was not the man to assert them. Nor did he assume such a role when the Conservatives under Robert Borden assumed office in 1911. Even though the Department was placed directly under the prime minister in 1912 and transferred to the East Block two years later, Pope's limited role did not change. Instead, Borden, who was determined to play a greater role in imperial affairs, turned for advice to a brilliant young Canadian lawyer, Loring Christie.

In 1913, Christie was appointed the Department's first legal adviser, working directly with the Prime Minister and providing him with arguments to support his demand for a greater voice in imperial councils. This was especially true after the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, when Borden increasingly insisted that Britain consult the Dominion prime ministers on the course of the conflict. Christie helped Borden attain his goal through membership in the Imperial War Cabinet and, in 1919, at the Paris Peace Conference, where Canada gained independent membership in the new League of Nations.



⁸ An early proponent of a separate ministry to coordinate Canada's "external affairs," Sir Joseph Pope served as the Department's first under-secretary, from 1909 until 1925. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, PA-110845)

⁹ Loring Christie, shown here in a 1939 photo, joined the Department as its first legal adviser in 1913, providing his minister with arguments to support Ottawa's demand for greater autonomy. (Source: Yousuf Karsh, Library and Archives Canada, PA-174532)