

of Nations were largely unformulated, and the Department was barely called on to prepare the ground or give guidance and direction. Sir Robert Borden and his handful of unprepared Ministers groped their way through these new problems, with the technical - or even political - advice of only the Legal Adviser of the Department, L. C. Christie, mainly on matters of dominion status in the brave new world. (1)

Therefore the Department of External Affairs remained, in Pope's day, a shell. It had small dynamic power or influence. It was not a "foreign office". Sir Joseph Pope did little in this respect; apparently it was not his particular "métier". He was not a formulator of policy, but a professional administrative Civil Servant. He had served faithfully under ten Prime Ministers, yet he does not appear to have substantively influenced any of them in policy formulation. But his Department was a useful adjunct to the Prime Minister. After Laurier's time, i.e., in the eras of Borden, Meighen and Mackenzie King, the Department remained static and neglected; the staff still remained inadequate; the Prime Minister did not want to swell the ~~est~~ estimates and Pope personally became more inert as the Deputy Minister of a small Department, in proportion as Borden and Mackenzie King became more and more their own "foreign ministers" in their policy-formulating at home and at their missions abroad, and as they took with them on their missions such special advisers as Loring Christie, and (at the Imperial Conference of 1923 and at the League of Nations in 1924), Dr. O.D. Skelton, Dean of Arts at Queen's University.

(1) Glazebrook: History of Canadian External Relations. pp.308-9.