

East Block office space, in which Earl Grey took the lead, - a most unusual course for a Governor General. May promises were made and agreements finally reached: but in the end the efforts failed, no adjustment was concluded, and the Governor General told Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he felt himself very humiliated, as well as deprived of an arrangement which was of great importance to himself, and to public convenience. The story of this lengthy and abortive tussle is clearly outlined in the correspondence between Earl Grey and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

On November 3, 1909, Grey wrote to Laurier expressing his "great disappointment" that the offices of the Department of External Affairs had been, "only temporarily, I hope," located in Bank Street. He reminded Laurier that "you took the view that the public convenience required that the offices of the Department of External Affairs should be in the same building as the offices of the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State. It was an assurance from you that this would be arranged that I consented to my office being weakened by the transfer of Mr. Walker to the newly created Department. It was arranged with Mr. Pope that my office should have the power of consulting freely at all times with Mr. Walker re the drafting of despatches, etc. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that Mr. Walker in his Bank St. Office is almost as useless to my Office as if he were in Calcutta!" He then emphasized that "It is on the ground of public convenience that I urge this. The public convenience suffers if there is not easy access between the offices of the Secretary and