

concurrence was officially that of the Government in London. In this regard, Grey wrote in a private letter to Lord Crewe on April 8, 1909:

My relations with Sir Wilfrid Laurier are those almost of a colleague as well as those of a Governor General, and in discussing these questions with Sir Wilfrid Laurier I am careful to remember the dictum of the old Jesuit who pointed out that there was hardly any limit to what a man might accomplish if he would only allow other people to obtain the credit. If expressing myself sympathetically towards any suggestions I may receive from Sir Wilfrid, he quite understands that I am not speaking for His Majesty's Government until I deal with the matter officially . . ." (1)

Nevertheless, Grey took such an active interest in governmental policy that he betrayed perhaps a little of the manner of a Colonial Governor. He was as busy as a beaver; he read every document. He corresponded privately, as well as officially with Lord Elgin and Lord Crewe at the Colonial Office and with James Bryce at the British Embassy in Washington; and above all, with his Prime Minister.

Apart from the routine documents and despatches that came from the Colonial Office or British Embassy, and which were docketed in the Governor General's Office and passed in the routine way to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs for reference to other Ministries or to the Privy Council, Earl Grey bombarded Sir Wilfrid Laurier with numerous papers under his own hand, usually with his own observations and comments. These were more than the Governor General's "minuting" of documents; they were personal letters. There would be a separate long-hand letter on each topic; sometimes several

(1) Grey of Howith Correspondence. Vol.15. Folder 35. (Doc. 004184).