

You will observe therefrom that in future all despatches communicated by His Excellency to his Ministers will be referred to the various Departments through the Department of External Affairs. In the case of those despatches which are simply referred by command, the replies thereto should be communicated direct to the Governor General's Secretary as heretofore, the Department of External Affairs being at the same time notified that the matter had been dealt with.

With reference to those despatches in respect of which, according to the regulations laid down in the second paragraph of the within Minute, it devolves upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs to report to the Governor General in Council, such despatches will be sent to the Department or Departments immediately concerned, with a covering letter asking for the views of the Minister thereon, which views perhaps might ordinarily be most expeditiously and conveniently communicated by correspondence between the Deputy Heads.<sup>1</sup>

I also enclose copy of a Minute of Council, approved by the Governor General on the 21st June, 1909, transferring to the Department of External Affairs the administration of consular matters and the issue of passports. If it suits your convenience this transfer might be made from the 6th proximo. There may probably be other matters for adjustment between the two Departments, which we can settle at a later date.

JOSEPH POPE

### 5. *Order in Council*

P.C. 1835

September 3, 1909

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, dated 14th August 1909, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the grant of special customs facilities to the consular officers of the Governments by which similar facilities are granted to His Majesty's consular officers abroad.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom the said despatch was referred, states that under the provisions of the Canadian customs law, articles for the personal or official use of Consuls General who are natives or citizens of the country they represent and who are not engaged in any other business or profession are admitted into Canada free of customs duties, and further, that in practice this provision is so interpreted by the Customs Department as to permit the admission, free of duty, of all articles imported by consular officers which are the property of the Government they represent.

The Committee advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to forward a copy of this Minute to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the information of His Majesty's Government.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

<sup>1</sup> The closing paragraph was added to the copy sent to the Under-Secretary of State.