

either on the initiation of the Department or for many years thereafter. The history of the Departmental premises was a long story of frustration and struggle and disappointment.

On June 1, 1909, when the new Department officially came into being, Pope despondently wrote to the Governor General's Secretary, (Earl Grey having left for England on a brief visit), asking him not to put the new procedure into operation immediately, "for the reason that while the department is brought into existence, so far it is not corporeal. Rooms have not yet been provided, so that I have no place in which to transact business and no staff to transact it with. The old order of things must continue until, at any rate, I get offices."

Pope's Efforts

Pope thereupon discussed the matter most earnestly and urgently with his chief, Mr. Charles Murphy, who, failing personally to get his way, appealed to the Prime Minister.

On June 15, 1909, Murphy wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier asking him to use his good offices in expediting action on the part of the Public Works Department in arranging rooms in the East Block. The most desirable arrangement, he said, would be to secure accommodation in the corridor in which the offices of the Secretary of State were situated, or at least on the same floor and as close to that Department as possible. (1)

On June 19th he prepared a memorandum for Laurier, recommending certain redistribution of rooms

(1) Laurier Papers. Vol.579. Doc.157021.