

It is said that the foreign consuls rejoiced at the new arrangement, partly because they were accustomed in their own countries and elsewhere, to having access to and connections with a Foreign Office for transacting their business, and partly because they felt that through a special External Affairs Department they would be dealing with an agency trained in the business of foreign relations and diplomatic problems, which would be more understanding and perhaps more sympathetic to their representations; and the Permanent Under-Secretary, Mr. Pope, was probably better known personally to them than the Deputy Ministers of other Departments, who were often "unknown quantities", and partly because they now knew "where to go" instead of wandering uncertainly to this and that department to transact their particular business. In Murphy's time, this new arrangement relieved certain consular business from the Department of the Secretary of State to the Department of External Affairs; in Borden's time, the routine business continued under Pope, but personal diplomatic transactions by the foreign consuls apparently were conducted with the Prime Minister who was Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In the Senate debates on the 1912 Bill, again there was some discussion concerning the department to which the foreign consuls-general or consuls should have access. Mr. Power objected to use of the channel of the Prime Minister, acting as Secretary of State for External Affairs: