

The communications to them (the Executive Council) of the Lieutenant Governor's or the Secretary of State's own Despatches . . . cannot be claimed as a matter of right by the Executive Council, and must be determined on, in each case, according to the Lieutenant Governor's own view of what is expedient, although publicity is always rather to be sought than avoided as a general rule."

The privacy and confidential treatment of a large category of communications to and from the Governor General lasted for a long period thereafter, even throughout the Laurier period and perhaps later.

By extension, the Governor General often allowed confidential despatches, both outward and incoming, to be seen in confidence by the Prime Minister; and according to either specific instructions, or his views of expediency, he would decide whether they were to be revealed to his Cabinet colleagues, or to certain of them in whom he had particular trust. Sir Wilfrid Laurier denied that he ever withheld from the Cabinet any despatches shown to him by the Governor General; but the amount of private correspondence that daily went on between Earl Grey and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in submitting various official communications, would indicate that many of these personal letters and commentaries, and sometimes communications relayed from persons like Ambassador Bryce, through the Governor General, were kept for his private information only, and were not passed on to the Cabinet.

Apparently a distinction is drawn between Cabinet secrecy of discussion and secrecy of Cabinet documents. "The deliberations of the Cabinet," says Prof. Dawson, "are held in strictest secrecy. All