

In order to legitimize his new Cabinet position, Mr. Pearson was elected (for Algoma East, by acclamation), to the House of Commons a month later by a by-election on October 25, 1948, which enabled his new position as Secretary of State for External Affairs in the Cabinet to be regularized and confirmed. He also became a Privy Councillor.

~~With reference to~~ This elevation of the former Under-Secretary to the Cabinet in Canada, <sup>an</sup> <sup>practice</sup> although not/uncommon/in England, raised some question in principle. R. Barry Farrell, for example, in 1949, wrote:

It is, of course, very unusual under a Cabinet form of government to select the senior permanent departmental officer to be the Cabinet Minister for his Department. The literature on Cabinet government abounds with references to the political neutrality of the official and to the character of the Cabinet Minister as a political expert but an administrative amateur. If it were not for the fairly wide support given Canadian foreign policies by opposition political parties in Canada and Mr. Pearson's high personal abilities and popularity his selection might justify some apprehension. Though rare cases such as this one may be justifiable, it is doubtful if the same could be said if the practice of so departing from the conventional pattern of Cabinet government became common. (1)

Mr. Farrell omits to mention that Mr. Mackenzie King himself was elevated from a Civil Service position as Deputy Minister of Labour to the Cabinet as Minister of Labour, subsequently becoming party leader, Prime Minister, President

(1) R. Barry Farrell: "The Planning of Foreign Policy in Canada". World Politics, Vol.1, No.3. April, 1949, p.358.