

## INTRODUCTION

The publication of the present volume marks the first of a series which the Department of External Affairs hopes to publish in chronological illustration of developments in Canadian external relations. The appearance of this first collection of hitherto remote material happily marks the celebration of Canada's centennial. Its historical starting-point has been fixed at the year 1909, since it was at that time that the Department of External Affairs was established. Important previous relations with other countries had long been conducted in trade, immigration, boundary disputes and fisheries questions. The focus of the present series, however, is on an increasingly broad range of external, or foreign, policy. Although this initial volume spans a period of nearly ten decisive years, it is expected that, as Canadian external relations came to expand in range and complexity, later volumes will cover progressively shorter periods of time.

Since the documents presented in this volume are intended to illustrate the formulation and implementation of Canadian policy in the field of external relations, certain criteria have been adopted for their selection. In the main, the communications chosen usually reflect a senior level of government consideration and decision. Accordingly, memoranda and letters written by officials are not included, except in those rare cases in which they constitute either the best or the only sources of information. When two or more documents making the same points are available, the most illuminating has been chosen. Unless of modest length or essential to the theme, documents already in print have been omitted. Extracts from speeches in the House of Commons are reproduced only when a government statement of policy in convenient form is unavailable. Covering letters and documents burdened with minute detail appear only sparingly.

Within the scope of this initial volume, source materials were more fugitive and fragmentary than will later be the case. With the establishment of Canadian diplomatic missions still to come, one main reservoir of material for collections of this kind was lacking. On the other hand, fairly extensive correspondence with the United Kingdom appears, since the foreign relations of Canada as a non-sovereign state were conducted under British auspices during this period.

Various Orders in Council have been printed, since in a number of cases they provide the best, or the only, definition of Canadian policy and in effect were often used as the basis for despatches prefaced by a brief message of transmittal. The designation "Order in Council" is used to describe Approved Minutes of Council as well as Orders in Council proper.