

directly with other Departments in Ottawa, and in part with External Affairs. There was an attempt, in 1909, to clarify the obligations of the High Commissioner (Lord Strathcona) in respect to correspondence, as the following letter dated July 9, 1909, from Pope to W.L. Griffith, Secretary of the Office of the High Commissioner in London, indicates:

The procedure of my new office is not yet settled, but I think perhaps it would be more convenient all round if in matters requiring communication with the Provincial Governments you were to address the Under-Secretary of State of Canada as heretofore. The same rule might apply to all ordinary routine matters, as well as matters connected with the London Library, at any rate for the present, and only the more official and important communications or despatches which relate to matters of foreign or external concern be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. (1)

During the war years, correspondence direct with the Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council was of course inevitable and essential. In the first place, Sir George Perley was a member of the Cabinet, resident in London; in the second place, Sir Robert Borden was also Secretary of State for External Affairs; in the third place, the exigencies of war made the most direct and expeditious channel of communication with the head of government imperative; and in the fourth place, with

(1) File 1/09.