

dingy small building in Downing Street, with five superiors and sixteen clerks therein. Many a union workhouse has a stronger administrative machinery." But in the early part of the twentieth century the Colonial Office came into its own, and the portfolio of Secretary of State for the Colonies became, along with that for Foreign Affairs, one of the most important of the Principal State Secretaryships. In 1900 the staff numbered ninety-nine, and the volume of correspondence had risen by that year to 84,000 letters and despatches. The original Colonial Office was established in a poorly-built edifice, No. 14, in Downing Street; but this became so notoriously dilapidated that in 1875 a new building was erected, one of its sides facing Downing Street and another opening on to Whitehall. The Home, Foreign and India Offices shared the same great Renaissance-style edifice.

It was this institution which served as the basic link between the Imperial Government in Great Britain, and Canada. Its particular agent in Canada was the Governor General, nominated by the Colonial Secretary as his ambassadorial representative. As though supporting a suspension bridge, the Colonial Office on one shore and the Governor General on the other, were the pylons that carried the links of official communication between the Mother country and the Dominions.

The growing spirit of nationalism and imperial equality that infused the self-governing Dominions, manifested itself at the Colonial Conference in 1907, when the organization of the Colonial Office came under discussion. The ever-present sensitivity to status made