

Grey acknowledged both of Laurier's notes,  
on May 7:

Your two letters saying you cannot amend the Bill creating an External Affairs Department this session are a great disappointment to me. Until an Amending Act is passed I feel that I shall occupy a more or less false position. As you are aware, I gave Lord Crewe an assurance from you that owing to an oversight has not been made good.

I am sorry you do not think it possible to amend the oversight before I give the Royal assent to the Act creating the External Affairs Department. This would of course be much more satisfactory, but if it cannot be done I must be content with your assurances, which are as complete and definite as can be desired, that the Amending Act will be passed next session.<sup>(1)</sup>

Somewhat later in the year, on November 29, 1909, Mr. Charles Murphy wrote to Mr. Pope:

Upon referring to my files, I find that my recollection of the draft Bill creating the Department of External Affairs, and of the conversations and understanding arrived at with reference to His Excellency's views is correct. As I stated to you this morning, when you first mentioned the matter to me, I do not see any necessity for amending the Act. When it was proposed by His Excellency, last session to insert the words 'care of all correspondence' instead of 'conduct of all correspondence', it was pointed out that this change would make the department a mere filing office, and on the assurance of Sir Wilfrid, Mr. Aylesworth and myself given both to His Excellency and to the House that the procedure with reference to the Governor General's Office was not to be interfered with, the section was allowed to stand as Mr. Aylesworth drafted it.<sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Ibid. Letter 206095

(2) Departmental file.