

still tied, in contacts, to the Colonial Office; for, without a foreign service of its own, and without Canadian diplomatic autonomy, both its sources of information and its promotion of diplomatic business with foreign or other Commonwealth countries, had to be dependent on Downing Street. Neither Pope nor his Department tried to alter that. The change came gradually as the result of discussions at successive Colonial and Imperial Conferences and through occasional experiments in independent diplomatic negotiations.

With very minor exceptions (e.g. the Paris Agency and the International Joint Commission) the Department of External Affairs neither possessed nor developed a representational diplomatic or consular service abroad, during Pope's regime. It was, therefore, limited. Its functions were confined to the Ottawa arena, to the inner circles of government, with a certain link of contact with the Colonial Office and Foreign Office. It lacked any filaments extending its role abroad, acting both as nutritional sources for its own diplomatic needs and as agencies for carrying out its diplomatic requirements into foreign fields. The question of imperial relations involving status, was handled by the Prime Ministers and Cabinets, although Loring Christie of the Department contributed advice. Practical questions of defence, both in the pre-war years when the navy question was an imperial issue, and during the War, belonged to the Defence Departments and special agencies in London. Questions of commerce belonged to the Department of Trade and Commerce and its corps of Trade Commissioners abroad. The policies of the Canadian Government in connection with the Peace Settlement and the League