

15. *The Department of External Affairs Act*

2 George V, C. 22

[Assented to April 1, 1912]

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as *The Department of External Affairs Act*.

2. There shall be a Department of the Government of Canada to be called the Department of External Affairs, over which the Secretary of State for External Affairs shall preside.

3. The Member of the King's Privy Council for Canada holding the recognized position of First Minister shall be the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and in this Act he is hereafter referred to as "the Minister."

4. The Governor in Council may appoint an officer who shall be called the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, and who shall be the deputy head of the Department, and may also appoint such other officers and clerks as are requisite for the due administration of the business of the Department, all of whom shall hold office during pleasure.

5. The Minister, as head of the Department, shall have the conduct of all official communications between the Government of Canada and the Government of any other country in connection with the external affairs of Canada, and shall be charged with such other duties as may be assigned to the Department by order of the Governor in Council in relation to such external affairs, or to the conduct and management of international or intercolonial negotiations so far as they may appertain to the Government of Canada.

6. The administration of all matters relating to the foreign consular service in Canada shall be transferred to the Department of External Affairs.

7. The Minister shall annually lay before Parliament, within ten days after the meeting thereof, a report of the proceedings, transactions and affairs of the Department during the year then next preceding.

8. Chapter 13 of the Statutes of 1909 is repealed.

16. *Order in Council*

P.C. 1254

May 10, 1912

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a report, dated 8th May, 1912, from the Minister of Trade and Commerce, with a view to the establishment of more intimate and helpful relations between the British Consular system and Canada in respect of her trade and commerce with foreign countries.

The Minister observes that this system is widely distributed and in charge of experienced and, generally, specially trained men, a large part of whose work consists in getting information concerning the resources, commercial capabilities and trade openings of the countries in which its officers are located.