

Summary

Thus the enactment of legislation for the creation of a new Department of External Affairs appears to have gone through smoothly and with relatively little controversy or debate. The Governor General's misgivings were allayed, on assurance that his own powers and responsibilities in external matters would not be affected or diminished. The Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, justified the Bill, and so did Mr. Borden on the Opposition side. Mr. Murphy, the Secretary of State of Canada, to all outward appearances, justified the Bill which he introduced,^{*} since it left him still Minister of both his own and the small new department; if it truncated the Office of the Secretary of State, both in functions and in certain personnel, it was merely a hiving-off of a section of his Office into a second Office over both of which he continued to preside. It was, in fact, merely an administrative redistribution of duties, a division of work into two sections, "home" affairs and "external" affairs, permitting greater specialization and eliminating a certain amount of diffusion.

Assent

Having passed both the House of Commons and the Senate, and the appropriate recommendation ^{having been} made by the Privy Council to the Governor General, it remained only

(*) It was, however, somewhat peculiar that Mr. Murphy, after formally moving the Bill, took no further part in defending it during the debate, leaving that task to the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Minister of Justice, Mr. A. Aylesworth, both of whom justified it at considerable length.