

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ACT, 1912

Amendments to the Act of 1909 seem to have been considered by Pope and Walker within a few months of its passage. In essence, Pope wanted three things. First, that the office of Secretary of State for External Affairs should be a separate portfolio or Ministry, and not an appendage to the office of the Secretary of State of Canada. Secondly, related to this, that the Secretary of State of Canada should be designated Secretary of State for Canada (i. e. for "Canadian" in home affairs, only) to differentiate clearly his duties distinct from external affairs. Third, that the portfolio of External Affairs should be assumed by the Prime Minister himself.

The desire for a separate portfolio was apparently based on personal grounds. There is some reason to believe that Pope was not in the most sympathetic relation with Mr. Charles Murphy, or with the deputy, Mr. Mulvey. He wanted, as his chief, an independent Minister of External Affairs, and not a Minister of another department, who was not even sworn in as Secretary of State for External Affairs, nor held that commission, nor signed his name in that capacity. He did not want his new Department to be simply an annex to the old one, as it was described in the earlier Auditor-General's Reports. He did not want to feel that where two Under-Secretaries of State now existed, Pope was to be mistakenly regarded as secondary to Mr. Mulvey, or subordinate to him.

The second objective derived from the first. If there were to be two departments and two Secretaries of State, their respective capacities and jurisdictions should be more clearly defined and stipulated. The matter was largely academic. Pope was obsessed with the comparison with the British system, in which there was a Secretary of State for Home Affairs, and Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs