

The portfolio was given to the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, (December 10, 1941 - December 9, 1946). He was sworn in as Secretary of State for External Affairs on September 4, 1946, and for the next three months held the dual positions. On December 9, 1946, he resigned as Minister of Justice, (Rt. Hon. James Lorimer Ilesley taking the portfolio from December 10, 1946, to June 30, 1948), but Mr. St. Laurent resumed the portfolio of Justice from July 1, 1948, to November 15, 1948. Meanwhile he continued to hold the External Affairs portfolio.

Mr. L.B. Pearson, (1948-1957).

Mr. St. Laurent, however, resigned as Secretary of State for External Affairs effective September 9, 1948,⁽¹⁾ and the Prime Minister, Mr. King, assigned that portfolio to a non-member of Parliament, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, who up to that time was a permanent Civil Servant, (as Mr. King himself had been a Deputy Minister of Labour), and who, like his predecessors, Sir Joseph Pope and Dr. O.D. Skelton, was Under-Secretary of the Department.*

(1) P.C. 4076, September 10, 1948.

* With the exception of Mr. King himself, who had proceeded from Deputy Minister of Labour, to the Cabinet as Minister of Labour in the Laurier Administration (in June, 1909), Mr. Pearson's "promotion" was the first time that a Civil Servant, an Under-Secretary, had been raised to a Cabinet Ministership. Subsequently Mr. J. Pickersgill, a senior Civil Servant in the Department of External Affairs and close political adviser to Mr. King, was nominated Minister in the Cabinet; and Mr. R.O. Campney, who had been first, a Private Secretary paid by External Affairs, and later a Parliamentary Assistant of National Defence, entered the Cabinet as Associate Minister and Minister of National Defence on the retirement of Mr. Brooke Claxton.