

it and relate it to other material. Even the technique of international relations was little understood in Ottawa, with the result that frequent enquiries were addressed to London on questions of procedure. (1)

Parliament, reflecting national public opinion, was relatively apathetic respecting matters of foreign affairs, and left them to the Cabinet, with only pre-functory debate. The Department did nothing to stimulate public interest in foreign affairs, or to provide the public and Parliament with information.

To some extent, Sir Joseph Pope helped to create in Canada a new instrument of government. He saw the beginning, but not the end; he saw only the first twenty-four years of the new Department of External Affairs.

He saw the centralized collection and distribution of documents; he set in train the compilation of reference prints; he arranged for a rendezvous and centre of contact for local foreign consuls and later diplomats; he brought the passport business under his control until it became a sub-department in itself. He formed the tiny nucleus of a staff. He saw the Department suitably linked with the Office of the Prime Minister.

But he did not survive to see the recruitment and training of specialists or experts in foreign affairs. He did not see the opening up of true Canadian diplomatic and consular missions abroad, independent of the British missions. He did not see the expansion of the Department into a largely staffed "foreign office",

(1) Glazebrook: A History of Canadian External Relations.
p.346.