

the expenditure, and I think you will agree with me that this is a condition which should not exist. If the Emigration branch is to be managed as an independent entity the money would naturally be paid direct through that department. I consider that Mr. Smith is a hard working officer who has always been much interested in his work. He seems to me to sometimes go a little too fast or to be too optimistic, but he has been very open and frank with me and willing to give all information. At the same time I think that the High Commissioner ought to exercise a reasonable amount of control regarding the Emigration branch as well as all the other branches of the service here, but it must be done in a reasonable way as I will try and explain later on.

There is a Customs officer in this same building who does not seem to be subject to the control of this office but attends to his work as if it were entirely a separate business. I cannot see any reason why he should not be a member of the staff here and attend to other matters which might come up when there is a press of work and when he has not sufficient customs duties to take his whole time.

The Department of Militia and Defence seems to send its entire business through this office and has it attended to here and I believe this makes for economy in many ways. The case came up since I have been here with regard to the collection of insurance on lightship No. 19 which was going over for the Marine & Fisheries Department and which was wrecked near Halifax. I think this has been arranged all right but there was some difficulty about it because nothing had been known previously regarding the transaction. The insurance had not been placed here nor were the papers in this office. If the contracts had been originally made through this office or had this office been notified of it and the insurance arranged here, it seems to me it would have conduced to a quicker and more certain collection when the light ship was lost. The purchase of one or more ships has been made here this year by the Department of Railways & Canals and afterwards the payments for same were authorized and arranged through this office. Do you not think it would have been more in order if the original instructions had come from the Department through this office? There is a branch of the Department of Trade & Commerce in the city which seems to have absolutely no connection at the present time with the High Commissioner's office. This was not so until last year and from the files I find that Lord Strathcona did not personally approve of the change. I remember that last year when I temporarily took over the Department of Trade & Commerce I found it necessary to have an Order in Council passed with regard to the payment of the salary of the incumbent of this office in the city as the Minister had arranged before he left, but I do not remember the exact details of the matter. In other words the connection of the various branches of the service here to this office vary all the way from the Militia Department, which apparently communicates with this office about all its matters of business, to the Trade & Commerce office in the city here which seems to have no tangible tie left with this office at all.