

of State for External Affairs or whether that portfolio were held by a separate member of the Cabinet, I do not see how the Prime Minister could escape having to go through the despatches which deal with foreign affairs in a world of the character in which we live today. I notice there, as well, a tremendous change. Our country is being drawn into international situations to a degree that I myself think is alarming. That is something to which I hope, as we go along, we shall get a chance to give much more thought and attention.

Personally, nothing would please me more than to have one of my colleagues administer the Department of External Affairs as a separate department of government, and leave me with the office of Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council. When, however, I have discussed the question with my colleagues, and when I have thought it over myself, it really has seemed that in the long run less difficulty and possible confusion would arise and less time be lost if for a while at least matters were to be carried on as they are. However, so to do will require giving to the Prime Minister the right to obtain from time to time the services of men who have expert knowledge of these questions.

Following Mr. King, Mr. Bennett, who had himself recently been Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, said:

One of my colleagues has suggested that it is his view that it would be in the public interest, in the long run, if the offices of Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs were separated. On the other hand, as it now reads the statute provides that, for reasons that are obvious, the Secretary of State for External Affairs shall be the Prime Minister. I believe that was the view accepted by all overseas dominions, and I think the reasons are quite apparent to all. . .

I do not know any method by which the Prime Minister can escape from reading the dispatches which come to the office of external affairs. I remember Mr. MacDonald, (Rt. Hon. Ramsay MacDonald), telling me that he frequently had to sit up until the early hours of the morning to read the dispatches from the foreign office, for he said that it was a rule that he had made, and which he believed his predecessors had followed, that the Prime Minister should read every dispatch that came through the foreign office. Great Britain sends us cables with respect to matters that affect the welfare of the overseas dominions and even with respect to matters in which they might be only indirectly interested. The result is that when they are decoded and prepared