

But there is no record that Borden took any action toward submitting this draft to the Privy Council.

There is a hiatus in the file correspondence until 1915, when the question of channel of communication with Lieutenant-Governors - apparently not yet regularized, - was revived by Pope. In a "Memorandum for Sir Robert Borden" dated September, 1915, he wrote again:

With reference to the complaint of the United States Consul-General in the matter of the alleged shooting of James Peck, of Alexandria Bay, New York, I desire to say that the papers in this matter were sent to the Under-Secretary of State of Canada on the 7th May last, for transmission to the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, with a request that he would furnish a report on the case "with all convenient speed". On the 27th of the same month, certain further affidavits in the matter were forwarded to the Under-Secretary of State. No answer having been received in three months, on the 2nd September I wrote pointing out that the United States authorities were pressing for a reply in the matter, and asking if steps could not be taken to expedite the Lieutenant-Governor's answer. On the 3rd instant the Under-Secretary of State informed me that he had drawn His Honour's attention to the matter on the 5th August with no result, and that he was again bringing the subject before him.

Sir Robert Borden will recall that on more than one occasion I have called attention to the remissness of the provincial authorities, and particularly the Provincial Government of Ontario, in replying to enquiries made of him. The discredit connected with such of these delays as relate to external affairs, falls on this Department, which has no part in the correspondence. While I attach no blame to the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada in this matter, I am inclined to think that the evil complained of would be minimized if the Department of External Affairs were authorized to hold direct communications with the Provinces in respect of such external affairs. There is, in my opinion, no constitutional objection to such communications by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

If I have not recently said anything on this subject, it is not for lack of matter, but for the reason that in the grave crisis we are passing through, representations about matters of procedure can commonly afford to await a more convenient season.