

Consuls were adequate and proper. Canada wished to have its wants and interests duly appreciated and protected by the British imperial authorities, but did not seek to have a distinct or separate foreign policy. Pope could apparently hardly conceive of the gradual autonomy in government extending to independence in external affairs or to sovereign autonomy and status. He seemed almost blind to the developments promoted by Sir Robert Borden during and after the First War. He was, by the admission in one of his letters written in his declining years, apparently unaware of, or reluctant to recognize, any change of Canada's imperial status having taken place in the previous fifty years. (The evolutionary reform toward constitutional autonomy, although taking shape during the later stages of the War, did not actually crystallize until the Imperial Conference of 1926, a year after Pope's death). On January 20, 1923, possibly after his mind had grown tired, Pope wrote to Senator Sir George Foster: "I am one of those who do not see in what way Canada's international status has varied in the last half-century. At any rate there is nothing definite on the subject in this Department." Pope had evidently become so immersed in the routine concerns of his Departmental administration that he missed the broader revelations of history, constitutional change, and imperial devolution. He somehow, in his declining years, lacked appreciation of the significance of the political trends that had been at work in Canada during fifty years, or during the past ten years, which had taken shape during