

and Parliament, it was better to let sleeping dogs lie and not provoke suspicion. To this disappointing reply, Pope wrote on November 30th:

" I have your note of the 29th instant on the subject of the non-expediency of amending the Act establishing this department, and will make no move until again spoken to on the subject.

You will always find me ready to observe your wishes in this or any other matter".

Nevertheless, Pope, with Walker's help, continued to jot down various suggestions for amendments, which were held back until Mr. Borden took office.

Earl Grey, in discussions with Laurier, had likewise been dissatisfied with the Act of 1909, and felt that the new Department should be transferred, if not to the Prime Minister, at least to some separate Minister; and consideration was given to an amendment in this direction. On April 29, 1910 Earl Grey tried to prod the procrastinating Premier into action:

" I omitted to remind you this morning of your intention to pass an Amending Act to enable you to transfer the External Affairs Department to any Minister\* nominated by the G. G. in Council.

I hope the opportunity offered by Pope's absence will not be closed by the time limit.<sup>(1)</sup>

It remains mysterious as to why the temporary "absence" of Pope, who was so keen on amending the 1909 Act, should be referred to as an "opportunity". One may surmise that if Pope had been present at the time of these considerations, he would not have been satisfied with an amendment transferring the Department to "any Minister", but might have

\* This precise form was not incorporated until the Amending Act of 1946, which allowed the portfolio of External Affairs to go to a Minister not specifically the Secretary of State (1909) or Prime Minister (1912).

(1) Laurier Papers. Vol 735: Gov. General's Correspondence 1910. (Doc. 206739).