

after the new addition was completed, was inequitably allocated, and none of the occupants would yield their claims. The Governor General tried to persuade the Prime Minister to persuade the Minister of Public Works and the Secretary of State, and other Deputy Ministers; to surrender rooms in the East Block, or authorized Pope to pre-empt them, for the External Affairs Department; but without success.

Unpopularity

Pope was proud of the new Department. But it would be enough to dismay and discourage him to receive Mr. Murphy's brutally frank letter to him of November 29, 1909, saying that:

As I explained to you, the Department of External Affairs is not popular with some of my colleagues, and still less with many of the Government supporters. For this reason it would be advisable to justify its existence by allowing it to continue to work smoothly and without attracting the attention of Council or Parliament to unimportant details that would be sure to excite opposition and suspicion.

Was this the kind of backing, support and encouragement Pope had expected from his Chief, and which, in Pope's view, the more effective conduct of Canada's external affairs merited?

Staff

Also in the first few years, Pope did not get all the staff he wanted. Several proposed transfers to his Department did not materialize; the Customs Department would not release Mr. Laroque as a translator; he had to struggle to borrow a messenger and a typist from the Secretary of State's Department;