

Australia for the same reason, namely, that one Department should be charged both with correspondence of an international or intra-imperial character. Two years later when the Canadian Parliament enacted legislation to set up the Department it was attached to the office of the Secretary of State under the supervision, as Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, of Sir Joseph Pope.

At the time no special significance was attached to the appearance of the Department, which was merely regarded as a helpful method of improving departmental procedure and facilitating more efficient conduct of government correspondence with other countries. The first significant advance came in 1912 when the Department was placed by statute under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, as Sir Joseph had originally planned. At that time the Prime Minister also assumed the additional title of Secretary of State for External Affairs.

First Phase.—The early years of the Department were ones of quiet and inconspicuous development. Only one of its officers was called upon to serve with the Canadian delegation to the Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. It was two years later that the Department was charged with the supervision of the High Commissioner's Office in London. Nevertheless the War of 1914-18 altered the conduct of Canadian policy as Canadian troops bought with their blood on European battlefields the title deeds to Canadian nationhood. Because of their achievement from Ypres to Mons, Sir Robert Borden, then Prime Minister of Canada, could claim for Canada a share in the making of the peace; the right to separate signature to the Treaty of Versailles; and separate membership in the League of Nations.

Only by degrees did a puzzled world begin to appreciate that Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and subsequently the Irish Free State, had reached a position vis-à-vis the United Kingdom which led to them being described in 1926 as "autonomous communities . . . equal in status and in no way subordinate one to the other in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs . . ."

It is not surprising that an early manifestation of this change of status came in the relations of Canada with its mighty neighbour, the United States. During the War of 1914-18 the Canadian Government had found it advisable to establish a Canadian War Mission in Washington to deal with the numerous problems caused by war that affected the relations of the two countries.

The success of this Mission, which acquired virtual diplomatic powers, convinced Sir Robert Borden that it would be in the best interests of both the U.K. and Canada for the Canadian Government to have separate representation in Washington. His views prevailed in London, and as early as 1920 it was announced that the King, on the advice of his Canadian Ministers, would appoint a Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States who would be the channel of communication with the Government of that country, acting under instructions from, and reporting directly to, the Canadian Government.

Three Years' Rapid Growth.—However, no appointment was made until 1926 when Hon. Vincent Massey (now the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom) was designated Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington "with the special object of representing in the United States of America the interests of our Dominion of Canada" In February, 1927, he formally presented his credentials to President Coolidge. Shortly afterwards the United States appointed William Phillips, who had been their ambassador in Belgium, to serve as their first Minister to Canada.