

Major H. J. Woodside,

Ex Hon. Cor. Secy. OVERSEAS LEAGUE

Ottawa, Canada.

Personal.

OTTAWA, Ont.

23 June 1927

Dear General Currie;-

CHAS A BOWMAN.

I have much respect for you and your achievements for Canada, but why you should be associated with a nincompoop like the editor of the Ottawa Citizen, in this Peace Mission, is a puzzle to me. This man has been the laughing stock of Ottawa as an editor, and has boxed all the points of the compass in his writings. He is an Englishman, and knows as much of Canada as a kitten^{^HP} with the mentality of a 14 year old country schoolboy, before he enters the high school. He is one of that new breed of Englishmen, who argue everything, and never do anything worth while - the kind which is now undermining the old Country. He has a nice admixture of Uriah Heap to season his arguments. His editorials usually end in a smooth compromise - no violence !!

His history as given me by a high official of the Dept of Railways & Canals is this. When he got a position in that Dept. he employed his spare time in writing Communistic articles for some publication (in Canada I think). When^{^Hox} Dr Reid's attention was called to these writings from his Dept. he proceeded to get rid of him. When he got his walking ticket, he went down to the Citizen office, where the clergyman editor had made such a fool of the position (succeeding Gen Edw. Morrison) that a change was necessary. What did these fool Southams do but engage him for editor, and he claimed to Hon. Mr Forke that he insisted on having carte blanche (so Mr Forke told me, but I said I did not think they were such fools as that), altho they have a record in Ottawa. Well since his installation there has not been any fad from Bolshevism to single tax, that he has not fathered. The Journal used to count up to nearly thirty fads of the Citizen.

The Southams sold the Citizen pretty much to the Christian Science cult, and they are about as mercenary as the old founder of that fad, which we get rammed down our throats as often as possible. Their treachery to ex-mayor Ellis, and support of that wretched tool - McVeity - after they had demanded the discharge of McVeity as city solicitor, disgusted many of us before the war. The Citizen was the only Canadian newspaper that I know of which strongly opposed Canada going into the war, and opened its columns to every "copperhead" writer to oppose it, until I had to take time in recruiting, to handle it without gloves in a letter in the Journal. I used to call it the Christian Science organ and Bolsh-evik organ, because it was always belittling doctors work, and denying that inoculation had saved any lives during the war !!

The Journal used to ridicule it, but during the war the Journal and Citizen bot out the old Free Press, and the great English die-tator, E. Norman Smith, obtained practical control of the Journal, since which we are not allowed to say anything against the Citzn which is a good paper outside its editorials.

I have a habit of speaking out when it comes to anything affecting Canada and such a selection is a discredit to Canada.