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Arthur Lineham

COMMISSION AGENT

CORNER COOK STREET AND DALLAS ROAD

Victoria, B.C. 22nd. January, 1921.

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G. &c. &c.,
Mc. Gill University,
Montreal.

My dear Arthur.-

Many thanks for your kind invitation and promise to enable me to interview Mr. Beatty on several matters that are of great importance in connection with the welfare of this community, and island generally.

Before accepting your invitation, which will be at my own expense, I want to make sure the Council will increase the grant to the Victoria and Island Development Association to Twenty Five Thousand Dollars this year, as without the "Sinews of War" we cannot accomplish anything. When we know the verdict, and if it is satisfactory, I will communicate with you again as to arrangements. I want Bert Todd to accompany me to strengthen my arm, and I think he will do so, as we only require enough time in Montreal to see Beatty, and shall then try and enlist the assistance of Hanna for the Government roads also. This we can do on our way home through Ottawa.

Judging from your intimate knowledge of City affairs, you must receive one or both of the Victoria daily papers, so that you will perceive that the new Council is busy trying to straighten things out. Something must be changed at once to make revenue meet expenditure, and the principal item to be reduced is salaries, and a curtailment of unnecessary offices. All classes of labour will have to be cut in the general service, but we shall have to force the hand of the School Board to make them come within bounds. We have no legal right to interfere with them, but that does not prevent us from turning the light of public opinion on their extravagances. Through the fact that the Council has to find them in funds to any amount they demand, whether the tax demand issued to cover the amount asked for is collected or not, they have been in the past, successful in hiding their loose methods of doing business. Matters, however, have reached such a stage, that property owners have got their backs to the wall, and I have dug into details, and am going to try and bring them to time. You will perceive therefore, that I am not gaining in popularity, in fact I am already in receipt of anonymous communications threatening to break my head.

This brings me to our mutual friend Sam. He is behind me, and has promised to give me all the assistance possible. You will be sorry to learn he has been much troubled with sciatica lately, in the leg he had smashed years ago. He puts in most of his time at the ranch we visited together, and has spent a lot of money on underdraining a large acreage; erecting buildings and buying stock. He told me a few days ago that he had sold one calf, only a few weeks old, for \$2500., but when Sam talks about the money he is making out of the