

Personal and Private

January 2, 1940

I have been thinking a good deal about Jean's approaching marriage and what would likely afford her most pleasure in the way of a gift from myself. Like most everyone else, I had a great number of demands to meet during the course of last year, and my income has become perceptibly less with taxation and general increase in costs what they are. This year, I expect both the demands and the shrinkage will be greater than ever.

I have to be a little careful, particularly as I do not know what, at any time, may happen to me myself as regards my future. In times like the present, the strain is bound to be increasingly great, and how long I will be able to carry on remains to be seen. Fortunately, I have been conserving my strength all I can and, at the beginning of this year, I feel in better shape and more equal to the task than in some years past. However, the people of the country may come to feel at any time that they would like to have a younger man at the head of the Administration, and once that moment comes I shall, of course, drop out of public life. It will mean the loss of my salary both as Prime Minister and my indemnity as a Member of Parliament. I have to keep this possibility continually in mind. I have not, however, allowed it unduly to cause me to hesitate to go as far as I feel I should go, at the present, in outlays for one purpose or another.

As you know, I tried to give John a little extra help at this Christmas season, and have, of course, sought to remember May and her boys. Jean's engagement and approaching marriage have come a little sooner than I had thought they would. For this reason, and because I cannot go quite as far as I should like to go, I am anxious that what I give to Jean as a present should be something which would really be appreciated by her as well as helpful.

● King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
14 26 J 7 volume 13) Mr. and Mrs. (Janet
● Lindsey - Jennie) Harry Morrison Lay and
family January-June 1940 ●

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