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July 4th. 1923.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

Since dropping you a note yesterday I notice that Hon. Dr. Tolmie has been appointed in charge of organization for the Conservative Party for the Dominion. This is a fine move in the right direction and I am inclined to think Dr. Tolmie will be a good man for the job.

I felt shortly after I came to London that if we were going to make any progress in Western Ontario it must be by direction from London and with a Western Ontario organization rather than from Toronto. There is great jealousy between Toronto and the rest of Ontario, while the Toronto viewpoint is in many ways entirely different. We succeeded in forming a strong Western Ontario Association and this past election had our own organizer and largely directed our own campaign, of course, in close co-operation with Toronto. I believe some of the results are due to this effective organization that we have had here. Now that the provincial elections are over I will be very sorry to see this organization fall into disuse. It should be strengthened and continued. I do not know whether Ottawa and Toronto between them could afford to keep the office open here and pay an organizer for all time, but we might be able to make arrangements for a part time man. However, I would like to discuss the whole matter with you and Dr. Tolmie along with Mr. Ferguson or whoever he delegates, at the earliest possible opportunity. I could go down with Mr. Dennis, who is the president of the Association, at any time you say. We have worked up a lot of enthusiasm in Western Ontario and should not let it fall. There are still some counties where a great deal of work can be done, such as Kent and Essex.

You might show this letter to Dr. Tolmie, and take the matter up with him. It will save me writing to him. I can assure both you and Dr. Tolmie that you will have the wholehearted and enthusiastic co-operation of myself and all of the Western Ontario people.

I am very optimistic now for the Dominion prospects if we can only step in and consolidate our ground.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR FORD.

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