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(Personal)

Ottawa, October 24, 1914.

J.F. Atkinson Esq.,  
President, The Toronto Star,  
Toronto.

My dear Mr. Atkinson:

You have experienced the very difficulty I feared,  
but your letter helps to silence questionings in my own mind,  
which was what I hoped it might.

I shall say nothing to Johnson about the position  
beyond asking him to let me know if he knows of a man who would  
be suitable to fill it. Before the appointment was publicly  
known, when I was telling him of it, I told him I would be glad  
if he would be on the lookout for a suitable man for me. I do  
not think he is likely to regard the query as to whether he has  
come across any such one as an offer to himself, and even if  
he should, I do not think his relations with Mr. Howell, being  
what they are, he would entertain the idea unless directly  
approached. It may do Johnson no harm for some of his friends  
to know and even for himself to be aware that a position of this  
kind might have been his, but for the political services he is  
rendering. There is so little consideration shown by most men  
in politics to those who are often worked the hardest, it is  
sometimes an advantage to a man to have his friends aware of  
sacrifices that he may have either consciously or unconsciously  
been obliged to undergo.

Professor Kylie would be a delightful man to be associated  
with in almost any relationship. I doubt, however, if he would  
care to do the kind of stenographic work which would be necessary,  
at least as a beginning, and I don't know what his shorthand equip-  
ment may be. I should hardly care to ask him to do some of the  
things which it might be necessary for a secretary to undertake if  
one were to have the system which it is desirable to have. There  
may, however, be other phases of the work for which Professor Kylie  
would be admirably suited, and I shall be glad to keep his name in  
mind.

It is very kind of you to have given my request the  
thought you have. I knew when I was writing I was giving you a  
difficult task, but I felt sure you would appreciate the motive of it  
and would gladly exercise your judgment upon it.

With many thanks and best regards, believe me,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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