

39496

The Roxborough,
Ottawa, April 3, 1919

Mrs. Agnes C. Gray,
436 Victoria Avenue,
Brandon, Manitoba.

My dear Agnes:

I am very much pleased to have your letter of March 28th. As soon as it was received, I tried to get in touch with the Department of Trade and Commerce to find out what service, if any, it would be possible for me to render in advancing Willie's interests in the matter of his application for the position of Motion Picture Editor.

I have just been talking with Mr. O'Hara, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce, and he tells me that the appointment is entirely in the hands of the Civil Service Commission. The Commission, as you know, is supposed to decide all matters of appointment solely on grounds of merit. From this point of view, I feel that Willie's own work and writings will stand him in much better stead than any word any one could say on his behalf.

I doubt if the Commission is likely to be influenced by any expression of opinion from any source. If, however, influence of the kind is likely to be of service, I am inclined to think that it would prejudice rather than help Willie's chances were I to appear in the matter at all. The Commissioners have practically all been appointed by the present Government, or Sir Robert's Government which preceded it. Dr. Roche, the Chairman, was a former member of Sir Robert Borden's Cabinet. I have been so strong in my opposition to the old Conservative Government and the present Union Government, that were it known I was anxious about the appointment of any particular person, the chances are the Commission would go out of its way to see that my man was not appointed. It is unfortunate that this should be the case; but with your own understanding of men and affairs, you will, I am sure, be the first to see wherein, under the circumstances, it would be best for me not to attempt to move one way or the other. What I shall be most happy to do is to speak to some third party who could perhaps pass on a friendly word; but to attempt more than this would, I think, be unwise.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 45

PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA