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2453 Beechwood Drive
Hollywood.
Feb 9-25.

My dear Meighen,

Many thanks for your two last letters; the last came via Merriam and I am very grateful for the trouble you have taken. What I shall try and do is to get the Herald, the Edmonton Journal and the Province to take a syndicate letter each week reviewing the situation. Charlie Bishop can go on sending the news. We decided that while it might forfeit all the benefit which has accrued to Ian's health to bring him back in February he could come at the end of the month; I did not like to have Ruth make the long journey alone, so determined to stay over three weeks and bring them along. We will leave some day between the 21st and 25 and be in Ottawa before March 1st. The Tribune people were agreeable that I should stay over and begin work then.

I will keep all my news till I see you. I have been working away at my brochure on the P.M. and if find time to type it out today I may enclose the peroration or rather the closure for your edification. A Liberal who views W.L.M.K. with a certain amused detachment informs me that this statesman has discovered a new technique for dealing with the affairs of the nation. So convinced is he now that the golden age of Laurier has not returned and that the Dominion's plight is serious that almost daily she seeks Divine guidance by fervent and assiduous prayer. He assures me that this statement is literally true. The high gods who preside over Canadian politics must be moved to unrestrained mirth by the spectacle of that flabby little egotist squatting on his hams and seeking enlightenment as to the Divine Will and guidance about methods for your discomfiture and the solution of the Crows' Nest Pass imbroglio. But seriously it is a most risky practice though there are precedents—I think it was the Emperor of Russia the man who formed the Holy Alliance that used to get inspiration from Heaven, conveyed I think through the medium of a ~~some~~ piously minded mistress or some such devious channel. However if William displays a superabundance of virility and skill in Parliament this session you will know the reason—Providence has responded to his entreaties.

I have been thinking that he might be profitably accused of being a complete reactionary on these lines. In the Middle Ages the Kings of England and Scotland used to rule simply by playing off one gang of the feudal nobility against another; they had little conception of the national interest, they usually survived because of the discordant interests of warring factions of the feudal nobility. One time they would lean to the Percies and next to the Nevilles and so on. W.L.M.K. has brought us back to the state which prevailed in feudalistic times; Canada is split as never before into warring economic factions and he survives because they cannot find any common ground. He makes promises to them all in turn to prevent them going over to the opposition forces. If this is not the politics of feudalism, what is it?

Layton wrote altogether five articles in the Economist. For a simon pure freetrader he was very mild about the tariff system and he was very severe on the 1924 Budget which he said was a farce. Did I tell you that Larkin had been sent to the Economist office to protest against the criticisms of Robb's budget contained in my correspondence.

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