

Having thus expressed himself on Canada's automatic state of belligerency "if the King went to war tomorrow"; on the Dominion autonomy in foreign policy; on secret diplomacy "in hotel bedrooms and lounges"; on "metaphysicians called legal draftsmen"; and on the impracticality of Dominion secession from the Empire, Christie ended, denying that he was offering any "advice" to his old friend Mr. Meighen, or to Sir Robert Borden.

But I am ^{not} writing to urge any line on you now, and I have no intention of publishing anything. Whether you agree or disagree with my broad thesis, the problem of what to say or do in the immediate political situation in Ottawa is one on which I can offer no useful suggestion from this distance. If Locarno comes up for debate in the House, I do not see how anyone can say anything real without opening up the whole question of our Imperial relations. But this may not be a good time for anyone to fling that issue into the arena; and so, for all I know, your line and everyone else's may have to be to say as little as possible.

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P.S. I am venturing to send the notes and a copy of this letter to Sir Robert.

Christie at this time was, as is evident, a prolific correspondent with Meighen as with Borden. His many letters were long, reflective, and sometimes otiose, but usually contained some suggestive views, which were appreciated by their recipients in Ottawa. On January 13, 1926, Mr. Meighen wrote to Christie in London: "Please don't apologize about writing me on any subject. On matters of external affairs, I value your views more highly than any other I know and will be very much helped in the present situation by the suggestions you have already sent me." (1)

(1) Meighen Papers. Series 4. Vol.55. File 28. L.C.Christie.