

41797

The Roxborough,
Ottawa, November 21, 1919

Miss C. Welland Merritt,
St. Catharines, Ontario.

Dear Miss Merritt:

It is very kind of you to have suggested my addressing the members of the Iroquet Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, at the Chateau Laurier on or about December 2nd. I regret that I was absent in Washington when your wire was received, and have only this moment come across it in the correspondence which accumulated during my absence.

I fear it will be quite impossible for me to think of giving any addresses other than of a purely political nature, for some months to come. As you will understand, I have had in recent months a very large number of invitations to address political gatherings of one kind or another. Practically all of these I have been obliged to refuse, and of the number I have accepted only two or three conditionally. Were I to begin addresses of a non-political nature, I am afraid that many of my supporters would feel that I was not showing the appreciation I should of my first obligation to the Party which has chosen me its Leader. Therefore, I feel that, until at least I have had a chance of delivering a number of political addresses, I should not accept other invitations.

I need not say it is a real regret to me not to be able to accept the invitation you have extended.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 48