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could get an organisation of such younger men going with contacts in all the cities they could do a lot of valuable work. The Fabians' wrought tremendous changes in British public opinion by their pamphlets; the same sort of work could be done in Canada with fruitful results. Has not Mrs Reford's son come back from Oxford yet. He is the sort of person who might be secretary of such an organisation; some of them would have lots of money and they could dip into their fathers' purses. Most of the people who would join would have fought in the war and probably be natural leaders of the younger generation. The idea is only tentative but as our Premier would say I leave the thought with you. I know Herridge very slightly but Harold Armstrong says he is very able and he has money and is interested in politics.

I have been working along at my projected life of Babbitt Rex but various distractions occur. Lately I have become an authority upon the "movies"; I find the British papers are avid for stories about them and am at present doing a series of articles on them for the Glasgow Evening News, a paper I never wrote for before. Through a new star Ernest Torrence who is a Scot from Edinburgh I have met some of the Duchesses of Hollywood including even the great Mary Pickford. I had an hour and a half's interview with her one day. Two days I was out on the pirate ship when they were filming scenes from 'Peter Pan' and there were brats there playing the child parts who make \$10,000 per annum - aged 6 to 10. You may not have seen Clémenceau's reply to the father of the celebrated Jackie Coogan who sought an interview; the old man wired back "Very sorry but I am not an important enough person to waste the time of your illustrious son. Besides I do not film well". I have two good things for you. Above the door of the one of the movie theatres of L.A is this heartening inscription.

"You cannot speak to us
Oh, George Washington
But you can speak to God
Help him to make us
Better American citizens."

The city fathers of Long Beach our Coney Island have passed this edict. "No person shall indulge in caresses, hugging, fondling, kissing or wrestling with any person or persons of the opposite sex in or upon or near any public park, avenue street court way all ey or place or the beach or any other public place in the City of Long Beach and no person shall sit or lie with his or her head or any portion of his or her person upon any portion of a person or persons of the opposite upon or near any of the said public places in the city of Long Beach".

This sounds incredible but it is true.

I have been doing some lecturing and last week for a lucrative fee addressed 600 intellectual Amazons of this city on the "Problems of the British Commonwealth". As a result I have been offered an engagement in San Francisco. I do not know whether the Tribune want to renew my contract but my present plans are to come back for the session. Nichols said he was satisfied with my work but it would depend upon whether times were good enough in Winnipeg to permit the expense of a special service. I must thank you and likewise the remitter Merriam for the excellent supply of W.L.M.K.'s western speeches. They were true to form an amazing mixture of skilful straddlings, outrageous mendacities and the usual lather of sentimental tripe. To the December No of the Canadian Forum I contributed an article which may not altogether please you; I wrote it away back in October before you told me Mc Curdy's letter had fallen so flat. It is more or less on the lines I developed earlier in this letter.

I will stop now - please remember me to your family and to Merriam. I have accomplished a unique feat - extracted two long and most illuminating and enter taining letters from Grattan,

Yours ever,

John Hermon

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 131)

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