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Ottawa, July 13, 1915.

E. C. Smith, Esq.,  
President, Central Vermont Railway,  
St. Albans, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I found on my return to Ottawa this morning your more than kind letter of July 8th. Surely nothing could be more attractive to me than another visit to Madawaska, entertaining, as I continue always to do, the most delightful recollections of the happy visit of last year. Unfortunately, my plans for the month of August are such that I fear it will not be possible for me to accept any invitation for that month. About a month ago, my father had the crystalline lens of one of his eyes completely removed, in the hope that the operation may prove successful in at least partially restoring his sight, which has been gradually going during the last three years. It will be the end of this month before we shall know what degree of success may have attended the operation. This anxiety, following closely upon the death of my eldest sister at Easter time, has been a great strain to both my father and mother, who are not without any one of the family with them in Toronto. I have felt that I should like to give them a little holiday myself, and have thought I might do this and at

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 30

PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA