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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY
Office of the Chairman and President

D. C. Coleman
Chairman and President

Montreal
EN ROUTE TORONTO,
15th February, 1945.

Dear Mr. Hunt

Early in the New Year, I had to rest on the side lines for a spell because of a troublesome and painful ear infection. My personal correspondence was laid aside temporarily, which is the reason for the delay in acknowledging your letter of December 28th, enclosing a reprint of your tribute to Churchill.

I do not know of anyone on this side of the Atlantic who can interpret the thought and assess the qualities of an Englishman—or of the English people as a whole—with such fidelity as you can—or who can, and does, write of them with such noble generosity, unspoiled by any trace of blind adoration. They are a great people, and they have a great leader. They and he are too great to be perfect.

When in Quebec at Conference time in 1943, a friend remarked to me that Churchill was an incredible being—no mere man could endure the burdens he was carrying and survive. I replied that I thought my friend was exaggerating the strain—that he was speaking of a thoroughbred who had been in training for this one race for nearly a century. On the male side he inherited genius for politics and war, and an audacious, yes insolent, courage, and from the distaff side he derived warmth, generosity, colour and a further infusion of Trans-Atlantic daring.

Nature designed him for greatness and he had been conscious—sometimes too conscious—of the fact all his life. His own writings implicitly reveal—and those who met him years ago, as I did, could not but realize—that he always dreamt of himself as Prime Minister of England, as her pilot amidst the hurricane of War, and as the one who would preserve the frontiers and extend the beneficent influence of the Empire which the genius of Chatham had created.

To him, therefore, the task is not drudgery—the strain he does not feel—for he is enjoying the experience of reaching the position to which he had long aspired, and for which he had rigorously trained himself—armed with the sure knowledge that the mellowing years had taught him to judge men and their motives without passion or prejudice, and had fortified him to meet shattering events without panic or despair.

It irks me to find that on this side of the Atlantic so little credit is given for the balance and rhythm which Britain has contributed to modern civilization. You have done much to repair the omission.

I hope that I shall soon be in New York again, and that I will have the opportunity of a talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) D. C. Coleman

Lawrence Hunt, Esq.,
New York, N. Y.

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