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320 Bay Street, Toronto,
November 27, 1941.

Col. the Hon. M.A. MacPherson, K. C.,
MacPherson, Milliken, Leslie & Tyerman,
Westman Chambers,
Regina, Sask.

Dear Colonel MacPherson:

I have your personal and confidential letter of 25th. For over a week I have been somewhat under the weather, though getting down most of the days to the office. One of the heaviest colds I ever suffered is taking its course, and today I am in bed again. I, therefore, have to recall one or two things from memory, which otherwise I could check up.

I am very happy to have your letter; in fact, I felt rather worried that I had not heard from you before.

First, I, of course, took no part in the discussion directly or indirectly, but my own view was that the Conference, gathered then between 150 and 200 strong, had to act, and could not go home after having simply named a date for a Convention. There was an undoubted call through the country for action, and in these kind of times it looked to me very wasteful and trivial to have men come thousands of miles for almost nothing. I know the point you raise is sound, in general, but there are times when forms are of much less importance than they are at other times. I think I know pretty well what made the movement to force me out so strong—it was not any great popularity that I enjoy at all, and indeed, it wasn't wholly by any means a belief that I was so far better than anyone else. It was a conviction on the part of Members of what they felt was likely to occur otherwise. This brings me to the latter part of your letter. I, of course, do not know very much and do not know just what was said, but probably the Members did presume to speak from an elevation of experience which would not go down very well with those who were outside the House. What this really derived from was their great desire to avoid what they thought would happen if I were not chosen and did not accept. I feel sure you know what I am driving at, and it will be possible for me to discuss this more intimately with you when I see you.

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