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320 Bay Street, Toronto,
August 29, 1940

Hon. R. B. Hanson,
Hanson, Dougherty & West,
61 Carleton Place,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Dick:

I just received yours of the 27th.

As respects Canadian Press, I think I have done as much as can be done. There is no doubt as to the friendly disposition toward us of Howard Robinson and, for that matter, of M. E. Nichols also. Davies is a Grit sycophant. My opinion is that my blast in the Senate put them somewhat on their guard and I have followed it up by crowding them to the wall wherever they have replied.

I intended to write you this morning to ask you to have lunch with me next Tuesday if you were going to wait over until Tuesday. My thought was to have the available Members in. Please let me know and I will gladly do whatever you feel best. The luncheon will be at the Albany.

Perhaps I am getting old, but I never felt so pessimistic in my life as I do today. There is not a member of the Government whose statement to the public now I would believe, and as far as I can see, the Press has quite given up the fight against the Government and is grovelling at its feet. Where to look for any money passes my imagination. One doesn't see a word of criticism anywhere except, possibly, an occasional one in the Toronto Telegram and not very definite at that. The conditions at our Camps are frightful. Waste is the order of the day and discipline is gone, but nobody investigates - I presume because any adverse report would be censored. The fact is that the control of radio and the press has quite mesmerized and sterilized public opinion everywhere. One can get no means of expression that reaches out at all. Drew's speeches are not even reported by the Canadian Press. What I said did not trickle farther than the Senate door. Meantime, in my judgment, the war is not going well. The United States are steadily skulking out behind their own lines. Nothing is being done in Canada unless it is

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