

144280

374 Piccadilly Avenue,
Ottawa, December 19, 1942.

Dear Mr. Meighen,

I took steps at once, this morning, to start things moving in regard to Selkirk. My influence is not very considerable, and I don't know how much result will follow from my démarche. However, I lost no time in doing what I could, and I hope there will be a public statement in a few days. The Act clearly needs amendment; the interval allowed to the Government is much too long, and of course King will exploit it to the limit.

You will be glad to know that I have found no one here, of any political stripe, who is taken in for one moment by King's "hypocritical piece of stage play". I suppose you saw the Journal's editorial on the subject a few days ago? ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It was brief, but, I thought, very much to the point.

I hope we can use against King his whoops of 1920-21 on the subject of leaving seats vacant.

As to the letter you suggest: I am not altogether clear what you want. Is it a letter to the New York Times? Is it an analysis of the Pilgrims' speech in the light of King's past record? Or is it a comment on the incongruity of that speech and the CBC's action? I didn't read the speech in full, and haven't seen the Times editorial. However, I shall look up both as soon as I can, and prepare something. The trouble is that by the time I have anything ready, the whole thing is likely to be as dead as mutton. I wish you would write the Times yourself; your name would carry immense weight, while mine would carry none. But of course anything from you would be discounted as coming from one whose ox had been gored. What about Lou Golden? He could do a brilliant job, and do it much faster than I, which is a great point.

But I am perfectly ready to try my hand; I'm only thinking of the time element and the effectiveness of big names. Perhaps you have in mind a big name to be signed to any letter I might write? I know of only two reasons why it might be better for me not to sign it myself: possible objection from the Canadian Congress of Labour, and the point you mentioned some time ago about making the Oxford Press nervous.

In haste,

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Forsey

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