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Ottawa, August 25th, 1924
Canada

not attached when filed, apparently not returned.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

I have just read the letter to you from Senator L'Esperance, which you were good enough to send me.

The Senator evidently does not think I am the person destined to send our distinguished Speaker into deserved obscurity and to bring Gaspé back to its historic allegiance.

I am a little surprised that he so stresses the importance of a fluent knowledge of the French language. I am unfortunately not prepared to argue with any certainty that he is not right: though I am bound to say that when I mentioned the same difficulty to those who suggested that I might become a candidate they did not regard it as serious. They appeared to think that the vast majority of the people spoke and understood English.

My own candid opinion is that my lack of French would be a handicap, though I am inclined to believe—I hope I am not too vain in believing it—that in comparison with any of the other possible candidates that Senator L'Esperance mentions I could more than make up for the deficiency by a better grasp of political issues and by perhaps more capacity to expose both Lemieux and the Government. For my experience of political campaigns has been that a poor candidate, an uninformed candidate, will militate greatly against the most excellent cause.

Mr. Sutton LeBouthillier I do not know personally. The name, however, is very well known to me, and I believe it is a very respected one. I feel certain that he would do vastly better than either Dr. Gauthier or Mr. Sirois.

My own position, ^{am} summed up, is this: I am human enough to have ambition to get into the House, young and egotistical enough to believe that I could be of help to you there. But I have seen enough of the disastrous consequences of convention disputes, and too loyal to the common cause to

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