

144973

3 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa, May 14, 1946.

Dear Mr. Meighen,

This letter requires no answer. It is written really to enable me to satisfy my daughter when I go home to-night! Two days ago she received a letter from one of my aunts in Newfoundland. Within a few hours she had, with much effort, got it into an envelope and sealed it, and had then informed me that it was "a letter to Mr. Meighen", which I was to post forthwith. Yesterday morning I came out without it; result, tears at supper time, and assurances from me that I would faithfully undertake to post "the letter to Mr. Meighen" to-day. She added that some day she was coming to Toronto with me and wanted to be taken to see Mr. Meighen! I assured her that when she was old enough to go to Toronto with me, I should certainly try to take her to see you, and that you would be very pleased, as you were very fond of little girls, and had had one of your own.

You will be amused to know that the letter to you was coupled with a gift of two dandelions to Mr. Misher, also forgotten yesterday, with similar tearful consequences! This presentation has now been made, so all should be well this evening.

While I am writing, I cannot resist saying that I hope you noticed King's statement on the aim and object of a Prime Minister's existence: to keep out of trouble. This, of course, is perfectly in character, and nothing new. It accords precisely with his statement to Smith, of the Ottawa Journal, at the time of the famous twenty-fifth anniversary, that the secret of health was "no excess; no excess in thought, no excess in action", and that the most important achievements in statesmanship were not what one did but what one prevented. But this latest version of his credo takes the cake.

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Forsey

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