

Private and Confidential

August 14, 1930.

General A. E. Ross, M. P.,
Kingston, Ontario.

Coming back to town yesterday
I found your personal note of August 6th.

In one of the first announcements of the probable new Cabinet I noticed that you had been slated as Minister of Health and Pensions. I rejoiced when I read that, not only because I would like to see you receive promotion, but I am as positive as can be that no man in Canada could fill that post as acceptably as yourself. Dr. Murray Maclaren's name for such a position should not be mentioned at the same time as yours. I think that is one of the worst appointments that has been made to a Cabinet position since the war, especially when one considers that Bennett had you available.

The thought that strikes me is this: that Bennett's present Cabinet can only be temporary. It may be that with the short time at his disposal he was not able to construct his Cabinet as he would have wished. I suppose it was necessary to have some representative from New Brunswick, but if Murray Maclaren is the best that New Brunswick has to offer for Cabinet rank, then God help that province.

This letter is, of course, as private as a conversation between us would be, but in Bennett's cabinet I am disappointed in two things: first in the calibre of the Cabinet generally; and secondly, in your exclusion from the portfolio of Health and Pensions. Yours was the logical selection, and I