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may sound extravagant; and I suppose we are all  
really made of tougher stuff than that. But it  
would be a blow from which I could never fully  
recover. That I know.

I am very sorry Miss Blackstock's bundle was  
reached you. I think she is very bitterly shocked and  
grieved by Jack's death, and too much so to see  
clearly. I also returned the letters with a short cover-  
ing note. I told her I thought, and think, Jack  
wholly misinterpreted what you wrote; I had made  
one or two attempts to tell him so, and say why;  
then only made matters worse. Then, when his  
doctor wrote me, I told him all I could, and, to  
my dismay, he said he couldn't tell Jack any-  
thing! I had meant to try again from out  
west; but before that he was gone.

I enclose what I wrote of him in the Montreal  
Gazette. His brother wrote me a very touching letter  
about it, & which, alas! I have not yet replied.

I had, apart from the cold, a very good trip  
out west. Managed to see a lot of friends, in Saska-  
toon (where Hilda Neathy gave a lunch for me!)  
and Vancouver. I spoke to the CCF caucus in Victo-  
ria on the economic outlook for 1954, on which I  
had just written something which I'm sending you

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