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Ottawa, March 27, 1920

Sir Allen Aylesworth, K.C.M.G.,  
Traders Bank Building,  
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Sir Allen:

I thank you very cordially for having written me so frankly of your feelings and views with respect to my observations concerning the proposed amendments to the British North America Act at present before Parliament, in their bearing upon the question of Canada's status within the British Empire.

Let me hasten to say that I believe I am not less strong in my desire for the maintenance of British connection than the staunchest defender of our present position. Indeed, such motive as I had in mind in suggesting what I did was inspired principally from the point of view that the obligation of approaching the King and the British Parliament in mediaeval and obsequious language each time an amendment, however slight, to our constitution is required, tends only to afford to those who seek to represent our relationship to the Mother Country as one of colonial dependence, the kind of material they need to arouse the sort of feeling that helps to beget separation.

I was careful in my remarks to limit the suggestion to amendment of the constitution only in such particulars as might be agreed upon by all the Provinces after conference with the Federal government., The power to amend being likewise made conditional upon concurrent action by the Dominion and the Provinces. The effect of this, to my mind, will in the end be fewer amendments to the constitution than are likely to be made under existing

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