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July 22, 1924.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, P. C.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Meighen:-

Thanks for your letter of the 19th. I do not think that you ~~were~~ are justified in criticizing the C.M.A. for not taking more pains or at least interest to have the right doctrine preached in the West. No organization has done more to preach the right doctrine than the C.M.A. in the West.

Someway or other I feel that while it would be regrettable in the interests of confederation to have the three Prairie Provinces united against the essential policy of Canada as you say. I think we must like them first, put the policy of the force and demonstrate, by the resulting prosperity of the country, that it is the right policy. Free trade is a fetish with a lot of these Englishmen in the West. It is no good for Canada but they don't know it. It is popular, certainly, for the constituency selling in markets of the world and buying in a protected market, and being popular gets these fellows elected.

I cannot see that they would be interested in showing the fallacy of a policy which would have the effect of defeating them. The sessional indemnity is what they want.

I am enclosing you a copy of my reply to Mr. Sparks.

Yours very truly,

JRS/EC

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