

W. H. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

105392

PHONE 89 822

WILLIAMS AUTOMOBILE DISTRIBUTORS, LTD.

AUBURN CARS
CORD CARS
PEERLESS CARS

FILM EXCHANGE BUILDING
363 HARGRAVE STREET
CORNER OF ELLICE

FULLY EQUIPPED
GARAGE, OPEN
DAY AND NIGHT

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Feb. 25th., 1931.

Honorable Arthur Meighan,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Meighan:-

You will be very much surprised to receive a letter from me but the fact of the matter is that I do not know who else to write to that would be some assistance to us. Of course you are familiar with the recent raise in duty on automobiles. I do not believe that you would be in favor of the methods they used ~~that~~ is setting the discount on what the American Manufacturer could give to the Canadian distributor. The objections I have to this is that it exposes the cost of the goods we merchandise. In the second place every business man knows that nobody can handle automobiles on 20% basis, which is the maximum the manufacturer can allow the importer.

This discount might have been alright for duty purposes only for the objection mentioned above and we possibly could absorb the loss, but to take the difference between what the manufacturer would be willing to give the Importer as a dumping penalty we are inclined to think is carrying it too far. We do not think there would have been any objection to a straight up and above board raise in duty but we do detest underhanded methods employed. We are inclined to think this did not originate with the present Government and that they were ill advised to adopt this method. However, I presume there is not very much that can be done with this now but I do believe that if the Government knew the disastrous effect that it is going to have on the importers of Canada that they would not have applied it in this way.

We are distributors for Manitoba for the sale of Auburn cars, and we sell cars to our dealers at a price set before the raise in duty. We placed an order in the factory for forty one cars to take care of our requirements both wholesale and retail for the next three or four months and we believe that our orders should be permitted to come in without the raise in duty.

Meighan Papers Series 6 (MG 26 I Vol. 246)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

