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The Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, K.C.

Mr. R. B. Bennett was a good personal friend of mine, and a man I esteemed and respected greatly, although I could not agree with his economic policies. I remember once lunching with him in Calgary, and we were talking about this same kind of thing, and I said to him, that much as I disliked Governments and the State, and Government functionaries, that if I were a "Grand Mogul" I would create two more Government functionaries; one would be a man who would write down all the promises the candidates for political offices made to the people and then that these promises should be published at the cost of the State every three months in the candidate's own local paper and in the "Canada Gazette" if he were successful. That next there should be a functionary who would be the official "Guardian of the Truth" and who could sue newspapers and individuals if they wronged individuals by putting words into the mouths of people which were not uttered.

Mr. Bennett thought that first you would find very few who would be willing to run for election if this were done, and that in the second place there would not be sufficient people left in the country to write or to argue if they had to confine themselves strictly to the truth, to logic and reason, and to the decent amenities of discussion!

However, it seems to me it is very depressing to find a newspaper or an individual "throwing mud" at a decent and respectable man like yourself who has made such an important contribution to the intellectual life and so to the advancement of this country. I suppose there is nothing whatever to be done about it except to "grin and bear it", but it does seem a great pity, and I suppose it is the underlying reason why the cheap, unscrupulous demagogue can always win an election over a fair-minded and decent person who has some regard for the truth and who is handicapped by having the instincts of a gentleman.

Yours very truly,

H. G. L. Strange

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