

LETTERS FROM MR. H.B.MITCHELL.

Manitoba Club, Winnipeg,
4th Nov. 1922.

Dear Macdonell,

I hinted to you that I feared that Hugh Dyer was very hard up. He and his two sons got completely hauled out - and he has no insurance. Yesterday I spent the evening with him to talk things over.

Things are as bad as I feared. I discussed the matter fully with Harrison, his lawyer and one of his officers - you may know him -.

We decided that it would be well if Dyer could get something that would not force him to leave home altogether - something in the line of the Soldiers' Settlement inspections - giving him say \$1200 a year. This, with his farm would satisfy him and not tie him down to office work. He would feel, too, that he was doing something for the men.

If anything can be done, it must be by his friends, and in a friendly spirit. The Department may well "be anxious to obtain General Dyer's co-operation" as to pitch him an ungracious bone as a job seeker.

I don't fancy that Dyer would consider anything under Ketchen - to be given orders by Ketchen's batman.

I have talked the thing over with Harold Aikens, who dimly appreciates Dyer, without understanding that a really good man may go through life without caring to make money.

Dyer and I have been intimate friends for 35 years - so perhaps I can influence the dear old chap for his own good - as you can too. Try.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) H.B.MITCHELL.

702 Dorchester Avenue,
Winnipeg. 6th Nov. 1922.

Dear Macdonell,

I am afraid my letter re. Dyer was very indefinite and unsatisfactory - asking everything and suggesting nothing. Harold Aikens is going to Ottawa in a couple of weeks. He will talk to the Soldier Settlement Heads. If the matter could be put before them in friendly confidence beforehand, they would be in a position perhaps to give Aikens a more sympathetic hearing.

How would it do to get someone - say Sir Arthur Currie - to write Dyer a friendly letter and casually express the regret that Dyer's service should be lost to the military forces.

This may sound very roundabout to you - but our friend can only be helped in spite of himself.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD) H.B.MITCHELL.