

to turn a deaf ear to my suggestion. On the other hand, Premier Bennett is annoyed with me for making the speech, believing that if he and his associates cannot save the situation no one else can. I am told he believes that Beatty encouraged me to speak as I did. Neither party is right. No one suggested it or encouraged me in any way. I chose the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society because that would be regarded as an academic body and I wished only to discuss the matter in an academic way. Again, I thought it wise to speak in Ottawa where Parliament is situated.

The very day I made my speech Parliament spent nearly all afternoon discussing the propriety or advisability of giving votes to Indians; whether the Indians in this country have a vote or whether they have not cannot aid in any way in the solution of our present difficulties, and it is pitiful to see time wasted in this way. The next day Bennett and King staged their quarrel, each accusing the other of hypocritical utterances and attitudes re religious associations or affiliations. To me, Drew, it is little short of a scandal that in the most anxious days this country has ever experienced public questions are considered and decided in the light of the prestige and political advantage that may accrue to the party.

I have always read with great interest and approval your own utterances on public questions. I am sorry I cannot be in Toronto on the twenty-third.

Ever yours faithfully,