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120 ST. JAMES STREET

MONTREAL, June 20th, 1923

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen,
House of Commons,
Ottawa

Dear Mr. Meighen/--

Through the Royal Colonial Institute in London, I was instrumental in getting the Welsh Collieries very much interested in sending coal to Canada, last year. In fact, I believe a copy of one of my letters was sent to nearly all the mine owners in Wales, and after mutual co-operation in the matter, one of the largest firms made me an offer of coal laid down in Canada at forty shillings per ton for a good quality of coal.

This year, as you likely know, the Welsh dealers sent representatives across to Canada and they evidently succeeded in taking large orders from some of our dealers, but I do not think these representative coal men saw any of the members of the Fuel Board, so that the business was confined to the coal dealers alone. This would be perfectly alright if the public were benefitting by the cheapness of the Welsh coal, but I believe they are being charged American rates, which of course is a great boon for the coal dealers.

I have had some correspondence with The Hon. Charles Stewart, but there seems to be a disposition to pass facts that I have brought to his attention, by, while at the same time the Fuel Board seems to be giving the impression that they are greatly concerned about our fuel supply and are even suggesting now to endeavor to lay down coal from the West here in Montreal. Why is not the Welsh supply exploited, why is it being kept in the background? It makes absolutely no difference to me, financially, but I do like to see the people get fair treatment, and I think when fuel is at such a high figure, it remains a matter of great importance and the Government should be willing to step in and do what they can for the people, even though it may not be a help financially to, say, a dozen people or firms.

I have shown a copy of my last letter, to a friend and he at once suggested that you and Senator Foster should have a copy, so that I am enclosing copy herein. I will be glad, if there is anything you can do to ascertain information on the matter, that you will do so, and for which you will have my sincerest thanks.

Yours faithfully,

W. Tees Curran

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