

141678

320 Bay Street, Toronto,
October 6, 1938.

Personal

Hon. Senator W. H. Dennis,
Halifax Herald,
Halifax, N. S.

My dear Senator Dennis:

I duly received your wire and this morning received the paper and have read same, particularly the editorial referred to--"Canada Marshallled Resources for War Why Not for Peace?"

I know what you would like me to do would be to send some comment for the paper, and I certainly regret that I do not see how I can do so. This subject is so vast that if I were to give a reasoned statement upon it it would require a small volume, and secondly, if I give only a short statement, I am then in the middle of a controversy, and I do try very hard to keep out of controversies between Sessions for the simple reason that I have to in order to attend to my business responsibilities here.

Frankly, I don't think that any policy of merely employing labour by the Government for things that may be undoubtedly improvements and betterments will ever tend to reduce the suffering caused by unemployment. Our trouble today is lack of individual initiative and enterprise, and that trouble is due in the main to the tremendous load of debt and taxation under which we are labouring, and to interference of Government, in ways other than taxation, in all manner of business by competition and other devices. The load of taxation is, of course, in great degree due to the War, and if we were to be thrown into another war, while we would undoubtedly address ourselves to it with every possible energy, we would, in my judgment, land at its close in pretty much the condition in which Russia landed, or in which Germany landed at the close of the last war.

Further, I think this--and I can imagine no worse politics than to state it--that another very great cause of unemployment and hardship among primary producers is the tendency of the last few decades toward artificial wage structures. It is these

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 6 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 219)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA