

16590

(Strictly Confidential)

Ottawa, January 30, 1911.

My dear Arthur:

You were not less surprised nor distressed than I was when you saw mention of the proposed restriction of 3 1/2 per cent in the duty on clocks in the arrangement which has been recently negotiated in Washington, and which is now for consideration before the Governments of both countries.

Ever since the subject of reciprocal trade negotiations was first broached, I have been putting up a steady and persistent fight on behalf of the industries in our riding, believing that it was not less in the interests of the Dominion as a whole than of some of our industries that they should be interfered with as little as possible at the present time. Last fall, when some slight changes were made in the tariff I fought strongly against any reduction on clocks, which was one of the articles on which a reduction was desired by our American friends, and I think I can say that but for my representations at that time, the item of clock would have appeared on the list with a much heavier reduction in duty.

Because of my oath of office as a Privy Councillor, I am not free to say much about the nature of the recent negotiations, or what principle governed the negotiators. I might say, however, that when my colleagues left for Washington I had not the slightest doubt that they would remember the clock industry among the very first of the industries of which I had spoken, because in the previous negotiations, as I have said, I spoke more strongly on behalf of clocks and buttons than I think I did of any other articles, and my wishes on this occasion were well known. As near as I can gather, the item of clocks came to be included in the list because it comprised one of a large group of articles on a particular schedule which formed an important part of the negotiations, and it was not until Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson returned that I learned that this schedule had to be considered and dealt with in its entirety.

You are quite right in saying that none in the riding is more deserving of my gratitude for his support than yourself.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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