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GEO. B. NICHOLSON  
CHAPLEAU  
ONT.

Sept. 28th, 1926.

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,  
O t t a w a,  
Ont.

Rt. Honourable and dear Mr. Meighen:-

I have just seen the announcement in the press of your intention to retire from the leadership of the Conservative party, and while I can appreciate your feelings in face of what you have been called upon to contend with during the past three election campaigns, nevertheless it seems to me nothing short of a national calamity that you should retire at this time.

I know the unfair and ungenerous character of some of the things that are being said in certain sections of the press, and I know of some of the unkind statements that are being made by certain so-called members of the Conservative party, and it is not hard to understand the feelings that these must arouse, but to bring myself to feel that you are no longer our leader and that the public life of this country is to lose the man who, above all others, has a real vision of what Canada needs, and the courage and moral honesty to stand up for what he knows to be right, because of a campaign of vindictive malice on the part of our political opponents, and the expression of irresponsible demagogues within the party itself, is nothing short of a tragedy.

The one thing above all others in the recent election campaign that cut me to the quick was the failure of the people in your own constituency to realize their opportunity. In spite of this, however, I would take the liberty of urging you to take time to carefully weigh the whole situation. The Conservative party is certainly face to face with a crisis, which means a crisis for Canada, and it seems to me to be a time when every man who wishes his country well should above all else endeavor to keep his head.

The period of my life I will look back upon with the greatest degree of pleasure and satisfaction is the brief period when it was my privilege to be in a humble way associated with you in public life, and I still earnestly hope that we may have the privilege and honor of looking to you as the leader of the great Conservative

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