

Right Honourable
Arthur Meighen - 2.

July 6, 1940.

I have not bothered you very much with one else. Hanson should be in, of course, but as to Sterling, Rowe and Bruce, whose names are mentioned also, it doesn't matter. If the Prime-Minister of this country had the slightest respect for national unity there is only one way in which he can reasonably and effectively achieve it and that is by persuading Arthur Meighen to be a member of his Cabinet. I am not saying this simply because I am writing you, but because it is the fact and were it done it would be the greatest stimulant to the national spirit which this country has had since the war commenced.

There will be a measure of intense resentment if King undertakes to pick men and cling to others of the Ian MacKenzie type and maintain them as His Excellency's advisors. There is a feeling of disgust on the part of all reasonable citizens at the Government, at all politicians and at themselves, which is to my mind most serious. The handling of the situation by King has been such that any man who has ever been in public life is being ~~do~~ brushed with the same brush by the public and unless there is action and positive and definite action that sentiment will increase rather than decrease. The head of the Government owes it to all men who have interested themselves in public life and affairs in Canada to restore a measure of confidence to which they as a class are in large measure entitled. If he brings in one or two individuals, as apparently he has in contemplation, then the public will not differentiate between these men as businessmen and not formerly in public life, but will label them with some measure of justification as creatures named to serve special interests and brought in to continue the King policy of inactivity. This attitude might be unfair to McConnell and Macdonnell, but it will be their inevitable fate and will simply hasten the crumbling of our very dearest institutions in this country under the circumstances as they obtain.

If you alone went into the Government the situation would be saved, but without you in it the temper of the people of this country is such at the moment that a grievous suspicion would be directed at every and any action of the Government.