

"It is essential that you should enable the rank and file to understand what it is they are going to decide about, and that simply cannot be done at the last moment. . . In the case of war you wont have six weeks' notice or anything like it, and the information which will be available will be inevitably very meagre and very difficult for the rank and file to understand. . . You are still <sup>left</sup> face to face with the essence of the present-day problem that the Dominions, if they are to become independent nations, members of the British Commonwealth of nations, must have at least as good information about the international problems of the outside world with which either the Parliament or the electors will have to deal, as every country great and small. . . " (1)

Christie, from London, wrote lengthy private letters to Meighen on his Hamilton speech and sent him the comments of Amery and others on it. In acknowledging these, Meighen wrote on December 24, 1925:

My dear Christie: I received this morning your letter of the 14th, and copies of the two letters as enclosed. You will scarcely realize how much I appreciate your opinion on this subject. . . You have given more concentration, I think, to this question than any other man whom I know. The considerations advanced in your two letters are indeed valuable. . .

I am not sure whether your letter was written before receipt of a communication from me asking for a full exposition of your view on the Locarno Treaty and of the wisdom of our adherence. While appreciating what you have sent would very much like to have a fuller treatment of the subject from you. (2)

On December 23, 1925, Christie, as usual, also

(1) Borden Papers. Folder 58. Correspondence with Christie (1)

(2) Meighen Papers. Vol.55. File 28.