

## Appendix

my understanding also that your invitation to meet in Quebec was for the resumption of the constitutional conference discussions. As for me, I should be delighted to accept it if it were also agreeable to the representatives of the other governments.

With regard to the general conference which the governments of all the other provinces desire, and which would undoubtedly deal with problems such as those you mention in the last part of your letter, I should like as soon as possible to tell the other premiers whether the government of Quebec will attend and, if such is the case, what questions you would want to have on the agenda.

I am hoping for your favourable reply, and I express the same wish as you that, during all these conferences, we keep on co-operating as we have done during the constitutional conference "not as leaders of political parties but as representatives of the province" on the one hand, and "of the federal authorities" on the other.

With my salutations please accept, my dear Premier, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

Louis S. St. Laurent

## ONTARIO

Office of

The Prime Minister and President of the Council

Toronto, February 3, 1950

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have your letter of January 27 relative to agenda for the forthcoming dominion-provincial conference which it is contemplated will be held in September or October next. I shall give this consideration and advise you within a short time.

The fact that there is a dominion-provincial conference called for this fall need not stand in the way of discussions between the federal government and the government of Ontario relative to a wide variety of subjects. I have such things in mind as the following:

1. The integration of dominion and provincial plans relative to public investment. The province of Ontario, with its municipalities and commissions, at the present time has a very large public investment program in operation which is necessary because of the expansion of the province. We have a great many other plans which can be gone ahead with if economic conditions are such that this is required. If the unemployment situation is such as to justify a program of public works, we are quite prepared to discuss this matter with you at any time. Our present public investment program is involving expenditures of approximately \$25 million a month. We are most anxious to be co-operative in this matter and if the present unemployment situation justifies concerted federal and provincial action, I am prepared to discuss the matter at once.

2. Ontario is one of the provinces retaining the right to impose corporation and personal income tax and succession duties. There are many matters which might presently be considered to simplify this situation in so far as the taxpayer is concerned. I believe that this can be quite easily worked out and again I may say we are prepared to discuss the simplification of our present systems without waiting for the conference this fall.

3. There are many other matters upon which discussions might be held, such as any overlapping in old age pension administration, division of responsibility in the matter of relief, and things of this sort. My own view is that many of the problems which we have can readily be solved by direct

approach and consideration. As far as the government of Ontario is concerned, we are prepared to start now if you so desire.

Relative to the conference this fall, I shall give consideration to the agenda at once.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie M. Frost

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa, Canada.

## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Canada

Ottawa, February 8, 1950

Hon. Leslie M. Frost, M.L.A.,  
Premier of Ontario,  
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Premier:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of the 3rd instant regarding the dominion-provincial conference which it is contemplated will be held next autumn.

I understand you have already been in touch with the Minister of Finance with a view to arranging, at an early date, informal conversations on some of the subjects mentioned in your letter.

I shall look forward to receiving your views as to the agenda for the conference in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Louis S. St. Laurent

## PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Office of the Premier

Winnipeg, August 6, 1949

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Dominion-provincial relations continue to be of great concern to the people of Manitoba. This concern has prompted the Manitoba government to give careful attention to methods by which the two levels of government can work together to improve the general welfare of Canada. Our citizens would be greatly encouraged by evidence that some progress was being made towards achieving a more complete working relationship between Canada and the provinces, particularly in the major fields of public services. To the members of the Manitoba government it appears that the present would be an opportune time to make a careful appraisal of these matters in the light of experience and in the light of present circumstances and prospects. Attention might be directed toward what has been accomplished in this direction through the presently operating seven-provinces agreements and toward such extensions or modifications of present dominion-provincial agreements as might yield mutually beneficial results.

Such discussions would undoubtedly involve the consideration of suggestions which have been made at other conferences and such variations of these suggestions as may seem desirable in the light of present circumstances and of new suggestions which the dominion or one or more of the provinces may wish to make. In view of the extreme complexity and the wide variation in the nature of the issues involved, it does not seem to us advisable to attempt to list specifically, the items which should form the core of the discussions at such a conference. Our first concern in Manitoba would be in regard