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July 6, 1940.

Right Honourable Arthur Meighen,
The Senate,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

The situation at Ottawa is one of greatest perplexity to the average citizen. Mr. King bowed to the principle of compulsory training and with a great flourish brought the legislation into Parliament. Weeks have passed since the legislation went through but not a move has been made in connection with it, notwithstanding its apparent urgency at the moment of passing and the increasing seriousness of the situation every hour since. Mr. King was to reorganize his Cabinet and that has been promised for weeks. Nothing further has been done other than Ralston goes to Defence and apparently from the radio news of last night Ilesley will take over Finance.

There is a a persistent rumour that McConnell, Moore and J. M. Macdonnell are going into the Government. I do not know McConnell, but the suggestion is that McConnell and Macdonnell would be taken in to represent Conservatives in Canada. So far as our Western Conservatives are concerned, it would be but driving the wedge deeper between the parties if that were attempted. I know Macdonnell very well and admire him, but frankly if King took McConnell and Macdonnell in it would be concluded merely as a gesture to St. James Street and Bay Street and attack after attack would result on the Government, publicly and privately and instead of enjoying the confidence of the public it would only tend to promote a further measure of distrust.

Frankly, I do not think the Conservatives of the country will be satisfied unless you are a member of the Government yourself. It doesn't matter about any-

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 5 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 156)

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