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Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen

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31.8.25.

some bitter division of opinion on provincial matters.

I think Mr. Ladner exaggerates the importance of this so-called reconciliation, insofar as it affects federal matters. In fact, I am of the opinion that if we were to make any such arrangement as he suggests and publicly announce it and place General McRae in some outstanding position, it would alienate from us more support by long odds than anything we might gain. In other words, I am strongly of the opinion that the best course for us to pursue is to ignore this old provincial split and to carry on our fight on federal issues.

I have personally been assured by a very large number of these gentlemen that they will gladly support us in the federal fight. In fact, the most of them are keen to get to work and I expect as soon as our nomination conventions are held in the city of Vancouver they will be found in the fighting line.

I understand Mr. Ladner has had several conferences with General McRae. I know that he acted with the very best intentions, but I think it has been a little unfortunate, as it has engendered in the mind of General McRae the idea that it was exceedingly necessary for us to make some deal with him, whereas, on the contrary, I am of the opinion that any deal we make with General McRae will react upon us in an absolutely adverse manner.

The situation in British Columbia has improved and will improve, provided it is handled properly during the next month or two. I wish, however, to point out to you that there must be some definite decision made in the near future as to the direction of our party's affairs in the province. There are certain things that ought to be done now which are not being done and which I had attended to prior to the last general election. I have been trying to get in touch with Mr. Tolmie for the past two weeks and had an appointment with him here last week, but he wired me he could not keep it. I hope to meet him some time this week, if possible, for it will be necessary for him to attend to these matters if he is to have charge of the campaign here. I understand that this is to be the case from his conversation with the organization committee a few weeks ago, but I am a little perturbed about certain matters, unless something definite is done in regard to them now, especially in view of the probable brevity of the campaign. I am saying this now, merely to place myself on record as not being negligent of our party's interests, although for the moment helpless to deal with the situation with which I feel we are confronted. I hope this frank expression of opinion will meet with your approval.

I am,

Yours very truly,



MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (N.G. 26, I, Volume 71)

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