



The Board of Trade Building,
Montreal, July 27th, 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:-

Economy in Public Finance

On my recent journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific, during which I visited some fifty of the leading communities of Canada, two questions were to the fore in our conversations with business men — the first was the Imperial Conference and the second was the growth of taxation necessitated by the cost of services forced upon our various Governments, whether municipal, provincial or federal.

A glance at the situation of our different treasuries reveals the need for drastic retrenchment, already recognized by Governments, which we believe would now welcome a widespread urge in the direction of economy.

It has been made popular by the pressure of public approval for all Governments to spend liberally, and it is now necessary for an articulate Canadian opinion strongly to express itself in favour of economy.

Intelligent consideration can only be given to our public financing and the indifference to our mounting taxation can best be overcome, if there is brought home to the public interpreted data on these questions.

The Canadian Chamber, yielding to the pressure from many responsible quarters and in its desire to assist our various Governments, is setting up a Committee of nationally-known business men with a view to giving expression to business thought on this question of economy in public finance. The gathering of the requisite information for study by the Committee will be undertaken by a qualified secretariat, funds for which have already been secured.

As President of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, I am inviting you to act on this Committee, knowing that your counsel and leadership will go far towards making this undertaking of permanent help and benefit to the Dominion.

Anticipating your co-operation, believe me

Yours sincerely,

W. H. McEwen
President.