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320 Bay Street, Toronto,
January 2, 1940.

General J. A. Clark, K. C.,
475 Howe Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

My dear Arthur:

I have your letter of 29th. I, of course, have no Government accounts before me, but I know that in the last speech made by Mr. King he gave figures to show that the cost of the war to Canada for the next year would run at the rate of about one million dollars a day. I would think this would mean a cost maybe double that of the last war for the same period of time. Certainly, the statement reported in your letter that the costs already are greater than for the first two years of the last war is ridiculous and absurd. If, however, this Government has excelled in anything in its war effort, it has been in the spending of money.

You ask whether or not England definitely does not want men. I have no connection with the British Government in any way, but if anyone tells me that the British Government does not want men from Canada, I tell him that I do not believe him, and further, that he is telling me something manifestly absurd and untrue. Imagine Great Britain mobilizing as she is doing today, and calling on practically everyone who can bear arms at all, telling us she does not want our men. I have information to the effect that Mr. King has been making every effort to get statements of this kind from the British Government, and, as you can quite readily understand, they will strain every effort to say what Canada wants them to say, if they can do so honestly and without danger. They will go almost any length to avoid a difference of view with Canada, or a row of any kind. I am confident, though, they will never be able to produce anything in writing from the British Government to the effect that they do not want men, for such a thing would be such obvious mendacity that common-sense people would not believe it.

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