

ceived in this office from our representatives in Paris, Tokyo, and London. Further copies of interesting or important despatches will be forwarded from time to time as they are received for His Excellency's information.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. READ

42.

Le secrétaire, Gouverneur général au Premier ministre
Secretary to Governor General to Prime Minister

Quebec, July 7, 1939

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Prime Minister,

I tried to come up to Kingsmere to see you when I was in Ottawa last week-end, but I was told you were taking a much needed rest which I can well understand. There are a number of things as regards Government House policy which I should like to discuss with you, and I will try and put one or two of them on paper.

We are now about to enter the last year of the Governor-General's term of office, in some ways the most important year of all, but I think we should always bear in mind that the Governor Generalship is a continuum, and that the changes in the individual holding the post are merely incidental. We must therefore be constantly overhauling our methods, discarding that which is worn out, and adapting the remainder to new and changing conditions. A Government House is the sort of institution that might easily lapse into decrepitude unless we are always on our guard to maintain its vigour and usefulness.

This seems to me a suitable time to take our bearings and, if necessary, adjust our course. We have recently felt the fresh personal touch of Kingship, and I think we should be wise to learn what lessons we can from that experience. One of those lessons is the results that can be achieved by close and friendly co-operation between the Departments and Services of His Majesty's Canadian Government (and especially your own office) and the members of the Governor General's Staff. That is a state of affairs that should not merely be maintained but should, I think, be still further improved. I am sure you will agree that it would be contrary to the spirit of such co-operation if I did not indicate to you quite frankly in what ways I think that improvement could take place.

I have always held that the surest safeguard against the Governor General committing any sort of constitutional error is to keep him very fully informed