

March 17th, 1933.

Major J. M. Macdonnell,  
Care National Trust Company,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Jim,

Received your note of March 13th. I saw Ronald Macdonnell at Christmas time and liked the looks of him. The vacancy in the History Department has not been filled. We have had a great many applications both from Canada and from the other side, and we are waiting now for answers to several communications addressed to men in England and Scotland. I am also receiving a visit from a young member of the Toronto staff next Monday. As soon as possible I shall call the Committee together and see if we can arrive at some decision.

You make mention of my address on National Government. I admit that I was influenced by two motives:- one, of deadly earnestness, that there was a prime necessity for the best brains of the country to get together to see if some better leadership could not be forthcoming; and the other, an impish desire to have some fun.

From many quarters I am told that the Liberals thought (and may still think, for all I know) that I was put up to this by Mr. Bennett or by the St. James Street gang. Needless to say, there is no truth in either one of these conjectures. On the other hand, I hear that Mr. Bennett is very much annoyed at me for daring to make a suggestion that he and his associates needed the assistance of any others in doing their job as some of us would like to see it done. I am told (and E.W. is my source of information) that Bennett thinks Beatty put me up to say what I did. Beatty and Bennett are not for the time being political friends, Bennett having refused to do what Beatty wanted him to do in the matter of railways. They are still, of course, great personal friends. I am told, too, that the Liberals feel that they have Bennett on the run and they do not intend to cease chasing him until they drive him right over the precipice.