

Right Honourable Arthur Meighen - 2. September 14, 1940.

Minister, did not serve in the last war; Davis, his Deputy Minister, did not serve in the last war; Stapleford and Christie, his last appointees, did not serve in the last war. Colonel Lafleche did serve very well, but no one has any confidence in him because of his Bren Gun record and apparently we will have a French-Canadian in charge of recruiting in this Mr. Gagnier, whoever he is.

Another matter that I think I should call your attention to is this: I was asked at the time of the first War Loan in a very long wire from Mr. Ralston, then Minister, if I would serve on a National Committee. I replied by wire I would be glad to. I was asked to do exactly nothing. This time I got another very long wire from Mr. Ilsley, the Minister, and I replied again that anything I could do I would be glad to do. Again I was asked to do exactly nothing as a committee man until yesterday afternoon, when the loan was supposed to be over, when Mr. Houston, Chairman of the Local Committee called me and said he wanted me to go out with him this morning to see the Premier to see if something could not be done to stimulate individual subscriptions. This, on Saturday morning when the loan was supposed to be completed. I of course am going, but I am going to give them my views on this sort of service and I am inclined at the moment to write the Minister of Finance and tell him what I think of the whole business. It gives me no thrill simply to see my name in the paper as a member of the National Committee. I have no desire simply to be a piece of window dressing at a time like this.

The only newspaper that seems alive to Gardiner's desire to establish this new Department as a political department seems to be the "Winnipeg Tribune". Mr. Bird seems to be quite aware of what the "Little Napoleon" from the West is capable of and what he has in mind. These last two appointments are straight political appointments and make you all the more sore at heart.

Yours faithfully,

  
M. A. MacPHERSON.

MAM/IS

*This morning I am told Christie has one son of military age but not in the army.*

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