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714 Board of Trade Building,
Vancouver, B.C.,
August 31st, 1925.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,
O T T A W A. ONT.

Dear Mr. Meighen:-

I have had another long talk with Mr. Ladner also another talk with Mr. Maitland re the proposal that Mr. Ladner made towards having Dr. Tolmie announced as Provincial leader of the Conservatives and thus bringing together the two factions.

I told Mr. Ladner to-day again very finally that I disagreed almost wholly with his proposal and views, - not as regards Dr. Tolmie taking the Provincial leadership that, I think an excellent idea and, in fact, all of us agree that it would be a most happy solution of the provincial problem - but the practical side of it is in my estimation hopeless at present. If Dr. Tolmie were at this time announced as Provincial leader, it would seriously affect his candidacy in Victoria. If he were to continue there, it might result in his federal defeat. On the other hand, if he retired, it might be very difficult to get a man in his place who could carry the riding and I think the election announcement will be short when it is made, giving but little time to adjust matters of this kind. Furthermore, it is utterly impracticable at this time to call a convention for the appointment of Dr. Tolmie as leader.

Ever since it became evident that a federal election was in sight, I have counselled here that all provincial difficulties and squabbles should be dropped and that we concentrate our efforts and attention on federal politics for the time being. This has been loyally accepted and carried out by the Conservative party generally. There is however, a group, headed by General McRae, who were largely the moving factor in the Provincial Party, who are endeavouring to negotiate with us just as if there had been some division between us and them. You will recall when they were in Ottawa I told them plainly there that there was no division of opinion as far as they and we were concerned on federal matters and that I refused to recognise any such division.

As a matter of fact, the Provincial Party suffered an overwhelming defeat in the last provincial election and, aside from a comparatively small number, it has disbanded and the only thing that will again raise it into activity will be

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