

Other Correspondence: Plebiscite Before War.

While Christie was in England, as has been mentioned, he was in intimate though often dissentient relations with Lionel Curtis and Philip Kerr, and was on the editorial board of the Round Table quarterly. At one time he found himself so exasperated with their imperialist views that he considered dissociating himself from the editorial board, but was encouraged by Borden not to do so.

In 1925 Christie endorsed the contentious view expressed by Mr. Meighen in a speech in Hamilton, that on a major issue of foreign policy like the Locarno Pact, or war commitments, or conscription, it was essential for the Canadian Government to go to the country by means of an election which would be tantamount to a plebiscite or referendum. Christie, in a long letter dated December 14, 1925, to Kerr, confined his comments on Meighen's thesis to the question of war and despatch of Canadian troops overseas, which he felt called for a prior election. Kerr in a long letter in reply, dated December 17, took a more generalized position, as regards the role and duties of Parliament and Executive, which was entrusted by the electorate to represent them, and the need of wider education in an ill-informed public before they could or should be appealed to in matters of foreign policy.

The letter is interesting but too long to quote in full. Kerr said: "I have of course no objection whatever to any government in the Empire, either on the outbreak of war or after it has broken out, deciding in the full knowledge of the circumstances of the time that a general