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Personal

Ottawa, September 18th, 1926

My dear Arthur:

The battle is over and lost. The result was undoubtedly the greatest surprise in the history of elections in Canada. An explanation is not easy, and no doubt many explanations will be necessary.

Speaking broadly, though, there has been a great change in the make-up of the Canadian people; of late years we have lost a million and their places have been taken by others. The women's vote also, is a factor which has changed the character of elections more than we think. These two things rendered more effective the arts of deceit and roor-back. I am afraid I am compelled to say that these practices had far more to do with the result than I had any idea could be possible.

There is, however, nothing to be gained by complaining. We must accept the result in the best spirit possible. My chief purpose in writing you is to express in such language as I can command my profound admiration for the course pursued by yourself and the paper of which you are the editor-in-chief. Nothing could excel the work of the Free Press. This paper has a wonderful hold now on the hearts of Conservatives in Ontario; besides, you have the absolute confidence of the party throughout that whole territory. You occupy now a position of great influence, and your contribution to the work of the party in your territory has been incomparable. No one has a more secure mortgage on the future of Canadian public life than have you. No one will be more anxious to help you than will the writer whom you have served with a fidelity and effectiveness rarely equalled.

With all good wishes,

Yours very truly,

Arthur R. Ford, Esq.,
The London Free Press,
London,
Ontario.

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