

RG:0002,c.0048; FILE # 00505;

NATIONAL (UNION) GOVERNMENT: PROPOSED BY CURRIE, 1933-

**FILE 505**

**NATIONAL (UNION) GOV'T:**

**PROPOSED BY CURRIE**



that is, I am not certain, but I strongly suspect that there is much truth in it.

Could you not convince the Prime Minister that there is a wealth of desire to be helpful to him in the enormous responsibility he bears, if he will only let the loyal people of Canada help him? I think he should take steps, through you, to assure himself of that support before opinion becomes too critical, - and I cannot impress upon you too much the fact that it is becoming extremely critical. There are any number of the best young men of this country, men whom you can readily guess, who are your friends, and whom you know are worthy of every trust and confidence, men who will not abuse your friendships men who are Conservative, and, above all things, not radical, - and these men are shaking their heads very grievously at the present state of affairs. They do not think for a moment that any other government would have done any better than the present government, and they are willing to believe that no other government would have done as well. They know the principal causes of distress in Canada arise from conditions outside of Canada, conditions in which Canada is included and by which we are affected. But, they are not satisfied.

We British people believe in Democratic Government; that is, we have great respect for parliamentary authority. Yet it is felt that our present Parliament is about two years behind in its appreciation of what the public is thinking. The people are heartily sick of the political prejudice that exists, and that governs the decision in most cases. People have little or no sympathy with the Opposition, who try to embarrass the government at every turn, who think they have the Conservative party on the run and are not going to change their attitude until that party is pushed over the precipice. To them it apparently makes little difference what happens to the country as long as they can turn the voters against the government and, as they believe, of course, in favour of the Opposition.

I went before an academic body in Ottawa - the Ottawa Valley Graduates of McGill University - and made an academic plea for national government. I said that I was not directing my remarks against any party or against any men, but in a time of crisis like this I felt there was no place for party government. My plea did not please any of the politicians, but it pleased a wonderful number of people in widely different parts of Canada, who are getting a little tired of the exhibition of party government we are now witnessing.

I had an idea that the formation of such a government would head off the support which the C.C.F. would be likely to get if an election were called now. The C. C. F. is growing. It lacks strong leaders, but people turn out in their thousands to listen to what such leaders as they possess have to say.

Good  
deals  
of  
1933

Mr. King has a notion that he can yet bring the C. C. F. supporters into a Liberal party. What the other side thinks, I don't know. But I know the C. C. F. is a positive and growing menace to both the present parties. Our people might be divided chiefly into two classes at present, - those who have lost everything they have and those who hope to save a little of what they have left. Those who have lost everything are willing to have anything for a change, and some of them are wishing for chaos in the hope that those who have left a little will become like themselves and experience the misery of having nothing.

To attempt to run a country on purely political lines at such a time as this, with all the bickerings, unworthy motives, and waste of effort and money, to me is wrong, when unemployment is constantly growing and now stands at the highest figure in our history, when railway returns dwindle further each day, when ships are tied up to rotting wharves, when there is not even the seasonal increase in commerce, when the profits of every business are disappearing, when neither rents nor interest nor mortgages can be collected, when the farming industry is at its lowest ebb, and when no one knows quite what the morrow will bring forth.

I thought, further, that a national appeal, - that is, an appeal issued by a national government to the people of Canada, for the money which Canada must have to carry on this year, would be more likely of success than if made by a government politically divided. Mr. King does not favour a national government because he thinks he has Mr. Bennett on the run and because he thinks there would be no place for himself in such a government. What the Prime Minister thinks, I don't know. (But I am told he thinks I was influenced to say what I did by someone from the outside.) May I say to you that what I did was entirely off my own bat, with no desire to embarrass anyone, but solely with the idea that national emergencies demand a national government. I would much prefer to see us attempt to solve our difficulties as the old country did. There they formed a national government and balanced their budget. We, apparently, intend to do neither.

Take this present budget. It finds little favour anywhere. Everyone expected to pay and was ready to pay increased income tax. But the income taxes, for example, of my professors are practically doubled, whereas the increase in the income tax of those best able to pay the highest taxes has been raised about 8 or 10% only. Then there is this tax on sugar, which has practically doubled the price, and which is bound to prove a very unpopular tax. There is also the opening wedge in an attack on pensions. This proposed action smacks of discrimination; and I think it is attempted in the wrong way, even although directed against the Civil Service, which is about the most unpopular service in the country - and one as much in need of reform as any other. There is also this tax it was proposed to collect from foreign investors, which has had to be withdrawn already. It is felt that there has not been sufficient attempt made to cut

Fidelity Onion Skin 4.

expenses, and the budget is far from balanced. I find very few people who have the least good word to say for the budget.

Another thing that added to the shaking of public confidence was that assurance that we had never departed from the gold standard, an assurance that had to be modified and the admission made that we were not on the gold standard and had not been for several years. Now we are told that we are on "a sound money basis; we are linked neither to the dollar nor to the pound." - Although we are a debtor nation, and we do not quite know where we are! We are told that we must not have inflation, and yet we have a certain amount, and it is hinted that something unforeseen may occur which might make inflation necessary.

I do not think the people of Canada quite know the perilous condition that confronts them. It may be that those in authority think it is a good thing not to tell the people all the truth, or to feed them only on half truths; but I for one think they should be told the truth, for the time will come when they must know it, and when it is finally forced upon them, then they will have little confidence in any government. There is a fear and an apprehension that we are largely drifting, that we are waiting for the chaotic condition to come definitely, and that out of that chaos some power is going to arise to put us right. Some of us are hoping to God that something can be done before such an eventuality occurs, because this country is neither Italy nor Germany and will not stand for one moment for a Dictator. I may be wrong, but in my opinion that fact cannot be recognized too clearly.

gives  
date  
1933

But probably I weary you.

There are two things I want to get across to you, Bill. It is possible to mobilize an opinion favourable to the Prime Minister, and he should make some effort to win it. And I believe the way to get that powerful agency at work is through you. I think it is worth while, Bill. We know you, we have a great respect and a great affection for you. We want to help.

I may have put myself out of court by suggesting a national government in this national emergency. But there are any number of others who can be used. Why not use them?

The Honorable W.D. Herriage, D.S.O., M.C.,  
Canadian Legation,  
Washington, D. C.



House of Commons  
Canada

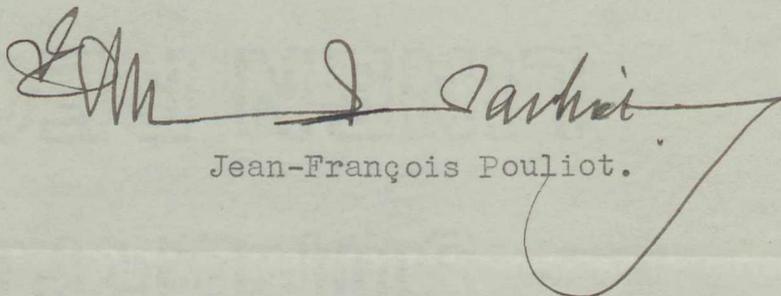
OTTAWA, April 6th, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie, Principal,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your speech  
of March 1st in Hull, I take the liberty to  
herewith enclose a marked copy of Hansard of  
March 14th last.

Sincerely yours,



Jean-François Pouliot.

6

April 8, 1933.

Jean-François Pouliot, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Pouliot,

Thank you very much for your  
courtesy in sending me the marked copy of Hansard  
containing your remarks in the Railway debate,  
which I found very interesting.

With all kind regards,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal



REGINA  
SASK.

Mar 13

Dear Sir Arthur.

I understand  
my young cousin when you  
saw at the time - Ronald  
Macdonnell - is hoping there  
may be an opening for him  
at Melville. I understand  
also that his father has  
given you a good account of

him-

While it is hard to praise  
one's own flesh and blood this  
may I think fairly be said -  
that his father and mother  
were people of unusual ability  
drive and strength of  
character and that of heredity  
accounts for anything the boy  
should have quality. The letter  
from his Malhol tutor seems  
to indicate that he has.

I. we been marooned here

for a fortnight dancing  
attendance on the legislature  
who are threatening wild  
legislation.

While here I've read  
your speech on Union Govt  
I had already been thinking  
a good deal about it and was  
much interested in what you  
said. I'm inclined to think  
one of the main people to  
convince is our friend Bill  
about the hardest man in  
the world to convince of

anything I expect to see  
Dafoe in Winnipeg early  
next week and if you care  
to drop me a line about the  
situation I should of course  
be interested and would if  
you thought it worth while  
communicate ~~to~~ anything to  
Dafoe - perhaps however that  
letter is far fetched perhaps  
I'm glad you belted the cat

yours ever.

Sir Arthur Currie GCB. J. Macdonnell



REGINA  
SASK.

P.S.

A letter addressed

to National Trust Co

Winnipeg

would reach me. Here.

I'm not surprised at that attitude  
no more just now. I'll spare  
your eyes and patience. I  
hope to be in Montreal next  
week and shall come to see  
ya.

Yours always,

J. M. W.

P.S. I might perhaps repeat  
~~at~~ with out-impunity - I  
think I wrote it in my first

know so that I could advise  
him to jangle on a trip to  
London.

I found your ~~letter~~ remarks  
about Bennett very interesting  
and they gave me furiously to  
think. I had a talk with  
Dafu which can be summed  
up in his words: "any <sup>long</sup> government  
with Bennett in will be a  
Bennett government and that  
being so its impact as well be a  
Conservative Government."

April 5, 1933.

J. M. Macdonnell, Esq.,  
National Trust Company,  
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Jim,

Well, the big meeting has been held, with the Prime Minister as principal guest. I suppose some 60 or 65 men, with Mr. Purvis as host, assembled in the Mount Royal Club, enjoyed an excellent dinner, listened for more than an hour to the P.M. give him three cheers and sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow", broke up at a reasonable hour, and have been wondering ever since what it was we heard. You will remember what John Daffoe said, that any government, call it what you will, with Bennett in it would be a Bennett Government. This was a Bennett dinner.

I am told that John W. Ross, President of the Chamber of Commerce, was prepared to make a vote of thanks and intended to say something about extravagance of government; but he was quietly eased out, and Mr. Beaudry Leman proposed the vote, in a very colorless way.

Mr. Bennett spoke to us in a very frank and friendly way, traversing those things which have been done and left undone since he found himself sworn in as Prime Minister in September, 1930. He laid great stress upon what he had done to protect industry, and offered no excuse for the extraordinarily high tariff - the highest in our experience. He dwelt on the increased number of industries, on the fact that Canada had regained her position as fifth trading nation in the world, told us of the bankrupt condition of the four Western provinces, and what it meant to keep Canada's credit good. There were other things which he said he had never yet disclosed, and of these of course I can make no mention. I am told on good authority he intended to say something far different, that he was anxious to come to Montreal and tell the men in Montreal just how they had failed to give him that support and help which was his due. By a prominent Montrealer and close friend of his, he was dissuaded from indulging in any scolding. I am sure he was wise in that.

But I am equally sure that no man in Montreal had any chance to say to the Prime Minister anything whatever that we have all been talking about for the last few months. The Prime Minister told us of the amount of money he would have to get this year for interest, for pensions, (but carefully refrained from mentioning the National Railways,) for unemployment, etc., and then he went on to recite the cost of the different services, Parliament, immigration, police, national defence, justice, penitentiaries, and so on, and he asked if there was any man in the room who could tell him where the cost of these services could be reduced, - and everyone remained dumb.

I thought as I came away that after such an exhibition we should all shut our mouths about the extravagance of the government. I suppose it would have been considered very bad form for anyone to have taken up the challenge.

He has come and gone, spoken very acceptably, has told us nothing we did not know, hinted at certain things that might happen soon. And there you are.

I sat beside Sir Charles Gordon at dinner and in the course of conversation he told me that he and Beatty had lunch last Saturday in Ottawa with Bennett and Bill Herridge, so that Bill's hurried trip to Toronto or New York set for Friday night did not materialize.

Yours ever,

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.

It was interesting to me, and a sad commentary on the way these so-called leaders of ours take their responsibility, to note that on the day I made my address in Ottawa they devoted almost the whole afternoon to a discussion of the propriety or the advisability of giving the franchise to Indians - as if that would have any effect, beneficial or otherwise, on this country's present predicament. Personally, I do not think Indians should have a vote. There are far too many people voting now. In fact, it disgusts me to hear Bennett say that he is going to leave the railway situation to a plebiscite. Such a proceeding would be ludicrous, because not one person in five hundred would really know what they were voting on. Meighen, you will remember, was going to leave to a plebiscite whether this country should go to War or not. My God! Can we look for any leadership at all amongst such men?

One thing I fear about this situation, Jim, is that my friend in Ottawa is waiting, as his associates seem to be waiting, for a crisis to come upon us, as there came to Germany, England and the United States. As a result of the crisis in those countries, we have Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy and Roosevelt has been given powers larger than ever accorded to a president of the United States. It looks to me as if R.B. thinks that out of the crisis he will emerge as Dictator of Canada. I am not sure that I want him in such a position. He is cabaret performer enough without giving him supreme power and a greater chance of showing off. If a crisis does come, I prefer to have it handled as it was handled in England, - a national government and the balancing of the budget. That, to my mind, is the only hope of arriving anywhere.

In making the address, I chose Ottawa because that is the seat of government, and I chose the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Association of McGill because that was the most academic body I could have in Ottawa and I proposed to discuss the matter in an academic way. I was very careful to point out that my remarks were not aimed at any particular party or political leader.

Since making the address, I have been invited to speak on the same subject before the Canadian Clubs of Windsor and Hamilton and the Empire Club of Toronto. But I have refused these invitations. I am not going into political life and I have no personal axe to grind. If I continue to make these speeches it will only consolidate the opinion that I have some axe to grind or that I am being put up to it by some interests.

Eight years ago I wrote an article for MacLeans Magazine in which I advocated the need of a general staff in government in Canada. I am more than ever convinced that what I advocated then would be a good thing now. We want something

at Ottawa that corresponds to the Defence Committee in London, men who are honorable, expert in regard to a given matter, and who meet to discuss in an intelligent, detached and scientific way what should be done concerning the matters they have to deal with. Some such body at Ottawa to advise the Prime Minister is just what is needed. Our present Prime Minister is a marvel in many ways, but he wants to deal with all these matters himself and he is a hard man to get to take any advice.

The other day I heard a suggestion made that one or two bankers should see him and endeavour to make him see just where we are drifting. A prominent banker in the party said that he thought good would come of two men seeing Mr. Bennett, but if four appears Mr. Bennett would begin to perform, and if six men were present the circus would be in full swing. Our Premier, apparently, cannot resist the temptation, when he has half a dozen men present, to tell them just what he is going to do and where they are going to get off.

You mention Bill. I have not seen him for a year and a half, and outside of an invitation to visit him in Washington last November I have had no communication from him. As I intimated to you before, there are those who are fearful of Bill's influence. I do not know whom he sees when he comes to Canada. I doubt if he sees anyone except the Prime Minister and one or two personal friends in Ottawa. With the latter I am quite sure he discusses nothing of a political character.

I have not seen any press clippings from the Western papers, but somebody told me they were very critical of my suggestion. I have thought very little as to how my suggestion could be carried out, although I realise that it is impossible for Mr. Bennett and Mr. King to work in harmony in the same Cabinet. If they can't, then we should have to get along without them. The only thought that has come to me about the personnel of such a government is that Mr. Taschereau would have to be in it. Our Liberal friends will say that he does not count in federal politics in Quebec nearly as much as Mr. Lapointe. I see no reason why both of them should not be in a Cabinet.

I should be very much interested to hear what Mr. Daffoe would have to say. A number of correspondents have suggested to me what the composition of a Cabinet in a national government should be, but with none of the suggestions could I agree, although I have not said so in replying to them.

Please remember me kindly to my Winnipeg friends if you see any - Harold Aikens, the Rileys, Judge Montague, Hugh Osler, Sir Charles Tupper and the rest, and with all kind wishes to you,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

March 21, 1933.

E.W. Beatty, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,  
Chancellor,  
McGill University.

Dear Mr. Beatty,

I am sending you herewith the  
latest issue of the "Alarm Clock". Please note  
the paragraph which I have marked on page 4.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

GEORGE A. DREW  
COMMISSIONER



ONTARIO

ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION

March 24th, 1933.

UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED PLEASE  
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
THE REGISTRAR  
ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
TORONTO

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I shall be delighted to go  
to your office at the University at three  
o'clock on Monday, and shall look forward to  
the opportunity of seeing you again.

Yours very sincerely,

*George A. Drew*

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	D L
Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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MCGILL UNIVERSITY MTL

PLEASE EXCUSE PERSISTANCE BUT COULD YOU POSSIBLY VISIT TORONTO APRIL  
THIRTIETH

GEORGE DREW

415P

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TORONTO ONT 313P MAR 15TH

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE

MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTL Q

WOULD BE DEEPLY INDEBTED IF YOU COULD ADDRESS EMPIRE CLUB  
THURSDAY MARCH TWENTY THIRD ON LINES RECENT MONTREAL SPEECH FAVORABLY  
COMMENTED ON BY OUR PAPERS CLUB HAS GROWN GREATLY AND  
YOU WOULD REACH WHOLE PROVINCE OVER RADIO YOUR MESSAGE IS  
OF VITAL IMPORTANCE AND BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE GREAT PUBLIC  
SERVICE IN STIRRING PEOPLE TO REALITY OF CRISIS AND NECESSARY  
FOR ACTION WOULD OF COURSE PAY EXPENSE PLEASE WIRE COLLECT

*Col*  
GEO DREW

324P

USE OUR DIRECT ALL-CANADA SERVICE TO VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA POINTS

Am going to Bowmanville  
to

of ... ..  
10/10/10

Colonel George Drew, Parliament Buildings, Toronto  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ADDRESS EMPIRE CLUB ON DATE  
YOU MENTION WRITING

Telephone:  
MARquette 8311

231 St. James St. W.,  
Montreal.



MEETING OF  
**THE CANADIAN CLUB  
OF MONTREAL**

MONDAY, 27th March, 1933

at  
ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

in  
THE WINDSOR HOTEL

The Guest of honour will be

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GEORGE A. DREW**

Chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission  
President - The Canadian Artillery Association  
President - The Empire Club, Toronto

Subject:—

**"CAN THE INVESTING PUBLIC BE PROTECTED?"**

Enlisting for overseas service in 1914 George Alexander Drew was wounded and invalided to Canada but returned to England in command of the 64th Battery. He was again wounded, and demobilized in 1919.

Col. Drew then practised law in Guelph, was mayor at the age of 31, and since 1929 has commanded the 11th Field Brigade, winners of the Shaughnessy Cup for General Brigade Efficiency.

He is the author of books and articles about the war including "The Truth About the War" and "Canada's Fighting Airmen."

In 1929 Colonel Drew was appointed Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario and in 1931 was made Chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission. He will discuss the application of the Ontario Securities Act and the necessity for further legislation to control the issue of corporate securities to the public.

**Tickets (80c.) will be on sale until Saturday the 25th of March, at**

**S. Hyman Ltd., 230 St. James Street W.,  
S. Hyman Ltd. 696 St. Catherine Street W. and  
Foster Brown and Son, 1230 St. Catherine St. W.  
A few may be sold the morning of the meeting  
at \$1.10.**

Book Ticket No. 18.  
Meeting No 27

H. de M. MOLSON,  
Secretary-Treasurer

CANADA  
POST CARD - CARTE POSTALE



GEN. SIR ARTHUR CURRIE  
G. C. M. G. K. C. B.  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

March 16, 1933.

Lt. Colonel George Drew, D.S.O.,  
Parliament Buildings,  
~~Ottawa.~~ Toronto.

My dear Colonel,

Yesterday I received your telegram reading as follows,

"Would be deeply indebted if you could address Empire Club Thursday March twenty third on lines recent Montreal speech favorably commented on by our papers Club has grown greatly and you would teach whole province over radio your message is of vital importance and believe this would be great public service in stirring people to reality of crisis and necessity for action would of course pay expense please wire collect."

to which I replied as follows:-

"Impossible for me to address Empire Club on date you mention. Writing."

There are several reasons why I cannot accept the invitation. I have another engagement for the 23rd and in the second place I promised Hamilton that if I spoke again on the lines of my speech to the Ottawa graduates I would go there. Windsor has also asked me to speak on this matter, but I have refused both of these other invitations.

It so happens that my work at the University is particularly heavy at this time of the year and leaves me no time for outside engagements. I cannot under the circumstances assume any more obligations than I have already undertaken.

I hear that the Liberals are under the impression that Bennett urged me to make my National Government speech, and for that reason and for the additional reason that they think they have Mr. Bennett "on the run", the party decided

to turn a deaf ear to my suggestion. On the other hand, Premier Bennett is annoyed with me for making the speech, believing that if he and his associates cannot save the situation no one else can. I am told he believes that Beatty encouraged me to speak as I did. Neither party is right. No one suggested it or encouraged me in any way. I chose the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society because that would be regarded as an academic body and I wished only to discuss the matter in an academic way. Again, I thought it wise to speak in Ottawa where Parliament is situated.

The very day I made my speech Parliament spent nearly all afternoon discussing the propriety or advisability of giving votes to Indians; whether the Indians in this country have a vote or whether they have not cannot aid in any way in the solution of our present difficulties, and it is pitiful to see time wasted in this way. The next day Bennett and King staged their quarrel, each accusing the other of hypocritical utterances and attitudes re religious associations or affiliations. To me, Drew, it is little short of a scandal that in the most anxious days this country has ever experienced public questions are considered and decided in the light of the prestige and political advantage that may accrue to the party.

I have always read with great interest and approval your own utterances on public questions. I am sorry I cannot be in Toronto on the twenty-third.

Ever yours faithfully,

March 23, 1933.

Lieut. Colonel George A. Drew, D.S.O.,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Colonel,

Just a short note in reply to your letter of March 21st. I notice that you are going to address the Canadian Club of Montreal on Monday, March 27th. I regret very much that owing to a previous engagement I shall not be able to hear you. But I wonder if it would be possible for you to come up to the University when you have finished with the Canadian Club?

At four o'clock I have a meeting of the Royal Victoria Hospital Board, at which I must be present, and I have an engagement for the evening. But I would like very much to see you while you are in Montreal and shall be greatly obliged if you can come to my office, say about three o'clock.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal



ONTARIO

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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
THE REGISTRAR  
ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION  
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TORONTO

ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION

March 21st, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

You were probably surprised at receiving a second telegram from me, but this was because I did not receive your letter of March 16th until this morning. It was addressed to Ottawa, and from there went to Guelph, so that I just received it.

I am particularly sorry that you cannot accept, because I think what you said needs saying very badly. Apart from the question of whether a national government is or is not the answer, there certainly is a pitiful lack of appreciation of the extent of the crisis with which we are faced.

Let me give you an example. In my opinion, Col. Murray McLaren is the head of one of the most important departments in the country, because, under Pensions and National Health comes the administration of The Pensions Act, with all its far-reaching contacts in every walk of life. If any job needed all a man's energies, this is the job.

In the face of such a situation, this is the sort of petty nonsense that is going on. I happen to have been re-elected President of the Canadian Artillery Association for the second term, and for the whole of my first year of office, and also during the present year, I have been fighting the silliest, pettiest campaign imaginable to force the Secretary of the Artillery Association to resign.

The situation is this. Colonel Sherman, whom I think you know, is the head of the Narcotic Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health. He has been Secretary of the Canadian Artillery Association for twenty-two years, and with his knowledge of artillery practice, and his personal acquaintance with officers all over the country, is worth at least twelve or fifteen thousand

dollars a year to us in the efficiency with which his work as Secretary, and the preparation of our various Artillery Summaries are carried out. As you know, the Artillery Association functions more directly in relation to training than any other Association. It actually lays down the terms of Competitions for the year, which in turn really guide the course of training. This is actually done by an Executive Committee composed almost equally of Permanent and Non-Permanent officers, although the voting majority is in the hands of the Non-Permanent. As I have been Chairman of this Committee for three years, I do know something of how it operates. I know that the complete co-operation between the Permanent and Non-Permanent Branches of the Service, and the very real efficiency of our Competitions are largely dependent upon the liaison work of the Secretary, who is in Ottawa, and who is in the confidence of the C.G.S. and D.M.T.

In view of the great value of his services, we have been paying Colonel Sharman a small honorarium, which doesn't in any way even begin to recompense him for the time and energy he devotes to this work. His Minister learned of this, and after Sharman had been Secretary of the Artillery Association for twenty-two years, he was suddenly notified by McLaren that he must resign from the Canadian Artillery Association, pointing out a certain order-in-council which referred to civil servants carrying on gainful occupations which conflicted with their work. This work in no way conflicts with his civil service work, as Col. McLaren knows perfectly well. When I pointed this out to him, he said, in his rather inane way, that after all, he thought everybody in his Department should have their hours of relaxation free to themselves. Well, you can't argue much with a man whose mentality operates in that way. However, Sharman offered to carry on without remuneration, and we passed a resolution discontinuing the honorarium. McLaren was notified of this. He wasn't satisfied with the way the letter was written, as it didn't apparently promise that no future honorarium would be paid for ever and ever, and he has been writing, asking the most absurd promise as to the future as well as the present.

I write of this incident at such length, because it does illustrate to me the sort of thing that is going on in Ottawa at the present time. Governments try to encourage employers to permit their men to perform military service. Sharman is recognized by every artillery officer in Canada as being of immense value to the Canadian Artillery Association. His work obviously does not conflict with his work in the Narcotic Division, and yet we find, at a time when scores of

thousands of veterans throughout Canada are in a pitiable position and requiring the most urgent consideration of their claims, that the Minister charged with the administration of this work, finds time to harass an excellent official in his Department because of some order-in-council which clearly from the context was never intended to apply to such a case, and, incidentally, is doing his utmost to deprive the Canadian Artillery Association of the services of an officer whose experience makes him most valuable to us. I could name some other Ministers whose appreciation of the appalling responsibilities of the moment are not much higher, and for that reason I was thrilled to see the bold demand that this crisis be dealt with in a manner appropriate to the danger that we face.

I appreciate the tremendous demands on your time, and also the natural hesitancy that you would have to becoming embroiled in any discussion that might interfere with your work as Principal of McGill University, but there is no one in the country who can so well say what you did on the occasion of your visit to Ottawa.

I would point out that if you can speak in Toronto at noon, I could drive you over to Hamilton for the evening meeting, so that you could comply with your promise to speak to them and also speak to us. You will not only have an audience many times the size in Toronto, but you would also be reaching scores of thousands throughout the Province over the radio. It is a fact that no other club in Canada has the same regular broadcasting facilities that we have.

Would there be any possibility of your considering coming to Toronto on the 20th or 27th of April? If you possibly can, I know it will be greatly appreciated, not only by the Empire Club, but by those who feel very strongly, as you do, in regard to the necessity of facing the reality of the dangers that exist.

Yours sincerely,

*George A. Duns*

J. J. Carrick

Toronto

March  
Ninth  
1933.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
President, K.C.B.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

As a former member of the Ontario Legislature and also of the House of Commons, I can appreciate your suggestion of a Union Government, but by the head lines in the press, like the attached clippings, how can one expect a couple of tomcats like King and Bennett to co-operate.

Yours sincerely,

*J. J. Carrick*

JJC/DF

330 Bay St.,  
Toronto.

## PURE HUMBUG, CHARGES KING HYPOCRITE, BENNETT SNAPS

Leaders Quarrel Heatedly as  
House Debates Unem-  
ployment

## Irate Party Chiefs Wage Bitter Debate On Relief Methods

Session's Accumulated  
Spleen Finds Outlet in  
Committee Discussion  
of "Blank-Cheque"  
Measure—Bennett and  
King in Violent Tilt



JUDGES' CHAMBERS Choquette

QUEBEC, March 9th., 1933.

Sir A.-W. Currie,  
Principal McGill University,  
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir;-

Many thanks for your valuable address, which I will read and study with great pleasure.

I am very glad to answer to your personal question.

I was a member of the group who accompanied Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1890 and in 1894.

In 1890 we toured the Lower Provinces and Quebec; and in 1894, Ontario and the Western Provinces, including Victoria B.C., which I much admired; and Sir Wilfrid Laurier had a great reception. We were splendidly received. The people were just as nice and hospitable as in Quebec. I have very often compared the two Provinces.

I may add that I have been in politics for nearly 50 years. I spent 31 Sessions in Ottawa as M.P. and Senator. I know something about politics and red tape.

If you ever come to Quebec, I will be very glad if you call me up. I will have great pleasure to meet you and discuss matters, because I know you by reputation and I know how much you can interest and educate me.

Yours very truly,

*Ray Choquette*

March 8, 1933.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Choquette,  
Judges' Chambers,  
Quebec.

My dear Judge Choquette,

I am sending you herewith a  
copy of my address at Ottawa last week, at the end  
of which I advocated a national government, composed  
of the best brains in the country, to help solve our  
present problems.

Yours faithfully,

Principal



Personal

**JUDGES' CHAMBERS** Choquette

QUEBEC, March 7th, 1933.

Sir Currie,  
President McGill, University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir;-

Would you be kind enough to send me a copy  
your  
of a declaration about an Union Government, published by  
the papers, and specially in the Gazette, as I am informed.

I should like very much to have it correctly  
because I have much sympathy for that statement.

Thanking you in advance,

Believe me,

Yours very truly.

*Ray Choquette*

Apt. 80 - 900 Sherbrooke St., West,  
Montreal, 3rd March, 1933.

My very dear Sir Arthur:

I was delighted and interested in reading your speech at Ottawa, and it was just like you to express yourself in the outspoken way you did, in connection with the present condition of affairs in Canada. The Politicians on both sides, as you say, should drop personal feelings and get together and do something to put our great Country on its feet.

There is an unbelievable lack of anything constructive, in the way of improving business conditions in Canada. Take the Railway situation - when Mr. Beatty so ably explained what should be done in the interests of our Country - he was ignored by the Government and his suggestions disregarded to a great extent. Take again, the paper situation, nothing constructive has been accomplished, except numberless meetings, committees, et cetara, so far, with no results whatsoever.

I happen to be very friendly with one or two of the best-informed paper men in Canada and from what I can learn, one of the chief difficulties is, the publishers in the United States have not been approached in the proper manner by the Heads of our Companies, and in many cases, ignored, even when the Heads have actually been visiting their Cities on pleasure, et cetera; the matter has been left to more or less good or more usually incompetent Sales Agents, and it would appear that this difficulty will not be overcome until some way or other is devised to rectify the present position. There is no doubt that the cutting, under-selling and double-crossing has also had a detrimental effect

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

3rd March, 1933

and is still continuing.

We can only hope when President Roosevelt comes into power to-morrow, that he and his advisers will devise some scheme to immediately rectify the Banking situation, the War Debts and the High Tariffs. No President has ever had such an opportunity that he has, and we can only hope that success will follow his endeavours to put the World on its feet, in conjunction with Great Britain, Canada, and the other European countries.

I shall never forget returning from London after the War and having a long interview with Lord Atholstan about what happened on the other side during the War, and it was appalling that, a man with the wonderful source of information he had at his disposal, knew so little, but each dinner-party I went to, and the more I met the so-called great men and leaders of finance in Montreal, I came to the conclusion that nearly all and everyone of them had their own interests at heart, far more than they had those of our Country, and lacked knowledge of the wonders done by our great Canadians on the other side. I kept my own counsel, - my reasons for doing so, were my devotion to you and the other really great men that I met in London during the War, and it was a privilege and a pleasure I shall never forget to my dying day. Further, it is not surprising that you came out in the straightforward manner you did, in Ottawa, and told those in the Government what they should do, and I can remember that you tried the same

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

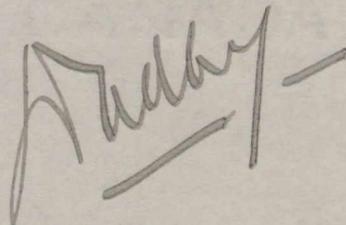
3rd March, 1933

thing when you came back from the War, but those in power and prominence in Canada ignored your suggestions, which if they remember, must regret with all their hearts to-day.

Please treat this letter as confidential, because it was intimated to me by the Head of our great Institution (I think caused by my writing an article last July on the War Debts, which was published in Montreal and New York), that, the Bank did not like their Managers expressing opinions on public matters, on the Bank paper, etc. so therefore, I am writing you as from my apartment address. I suggested a scheme for the Conversion of all the War Loans and was told not to give my ideas to any of the papers or to discuss the matter with my friends in any way whatsoever. I may say to you that the scheme is far superior in my humble opinion, to anything that has been published in the papers, and would be fair and just to all and every holder. Naturally, I have had to keep my word and have said nothing to anyone.

With my very kindest and best wishes.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur Currie", with a horizontal line underneath it.

March 7, 1933.

Dudley Oliver, Esq.,  
900 Sherbrooke St. W., Apt. 80,  
Montreal. P.Q.

My dear Dudley,

Thank you very much for your kind and cordial note of March 3. I expected nothing from the professional politicians but a hostile reception to my suggestion that they give up playing politics and get together to try to solve the serious problems now confronting this country. To me, the manner in which they spend their days at Ottawa is pitiful in the extreme. The day on which I spoke at Ottawa was spent in a discussion of the propriety or advisability of granting the franchise to Indians - as if such a measure could affect in any way whatever the prosperity of this country. The next day most of the afternoon was given over to a quarrel between Bennett and Mackenzie King, in which both of them acted more like children than like men holding very important positions in one of the most critical periods in our history. The Liberals, I take it, think they have Bennett on the run and that victory is theirs in the next election; whereas I do not think Bennett cares a tuppenny bit whether he wins the next election

or not. I do not expect that he will remain long  
in public life.

Ever yours faithfully,

LARGEST EVENING CIRCULATION IN WESTERN ONTARIO

# The Border Cities Star

A NEWSPAPER  
DEVOTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Windsor, Ontario



March 8th, 1933.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Quebec.

My dear General Currie:

Your letter carried such a convincing argument for Union Government that we were anxious to publish it. So we wired you immediately. Of course, when your reply came we did not print it.

Thank you so much for the letter. It contains plenty of solid food for thought along the Union Government lines. Although the outward signs of the moment seem to point away from a Coalition, it would not be surprising to see events take a different turn some of these days.

Hoping you are well and will keep going strong,

Sincerely yours,

*W. L. Clark*

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	DL
Night Message	NM
Night Letter	NL

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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GENL SIR ARTHUR CURRIE

PERSONALL MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL Q

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERMISSION TO  
PRINT IT AS IT SETS FORTH THE CASE FOR UNION GOVERNMENT SO CLEARLY  
COULD WE DO SO PLEASE

W L CLARK THE BORDER CITIES STAR

1141A

USE OUR DIRECT ALL-CANADA SERVICE TO VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA POINTS

March 4, 1933.

W. L. Clark, Esq.,  
The Border Cities Star,  
Windsor, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Clark,

Thank you very much for your letter of the second, and for the publicity you gave in the STAR to my Ottawa address. I remember you very well, and hope to meet you again some time.

I do not care at present to make any comment on any suggested Cabinet. I am not personally interested in any way. My approach to this question was on the broad general lines that the best results would flow from a union of the best brains of our country to deal with these pressing national problems.

You close your letter with the hope that we Canadians might achieve as much success in the battle of peace as we did in the battle of arms. I have no hesitation in saying that I believe we could; but we should have to employ some of the methods we found so useful in France. There, our objectives were set out clearly before everyone concerned, and we all knew what we were working for. The different units were assigned to their respective jobs, and were so trained and led that they were able to accomplish whatever task was assigned to them.

The trouble is at present that no one is telling us what we ought to do. To me, it is very enlightening to appreciate that most of the afternoon of the day on which I spoke in Ottawa was spent by the members of Parliament in discussing whether or not the Indians should have a vote. To my mind, whether Indians vote or not will have no possible effect on the betterment of conditions as they exist at present.

Yours faithfully,

*Bank of Montreal*OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
WESTERN DIVISION*Winnipeg, Man.*

335 MAIN STREET

Second  
March  
1933*Personal +  
confidential.*

Dear Sir Arthur,

I rejoiced to find from our press despatches this morning that you have come out strongly in favour of unity of action for the Dominion through a National Government at Ottawa. It has seemed to me for considerable time past that a division of political forces at Ottawa and in many of the provincial legislatures not only results in a waste of effort and money but through the very division of political feeling the nation is prevented from making more haste in the fruits that co-operative action should produce. In Manitoba the Farmers' party are in favour of union government but the Conservatives resist. In Saskatchewan the Conservatives are anxious for union government but the Liberals will not co-operate, and there is the same lack of harmony in British Columbia. From what I have read, somewhat of a similar situation exists in Ontario. These are no times for bickering about personal views and I thoroughly agree with what you have said. It does not need a prophet to foresee what will happen if we continue with a division in the national forces.

Yours sincerely,

*J. W. Speer*Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

March 6, 1933.

J. W. Spears, Esq.,  
Assistant General Manager,  
The Bank of Montreal,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

My dear Mr. Spears,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 2nd. At no time did I expect that my suggestion of a National Government would meet with favour from the professional politicians, but I thought that Ottawa was a good place in which to say that the time had arrived when the best brains of the country should unite in a consideration of the country's problems. It is an interesting light on how our affairs are conducted that on the very afternoon of the day I made my Ottawa address the House spent most of the time in a discussion of the propriety of giving votes to Indians. You and I know that whether Indians vote or not will not have the least effect in the solution of Canada's troubles. Most of the next afternoon was spent in a quarrel between Mackenzie King and Bennett. Personally I am chagrined and ashamed that men filling such high positions should squabble in the undignified manner they do.

To me often it has seemed as if the authorities at Ottawa were expecting some national calamity to occur before they could begin to rebuild. Whether it has happened in the United States and what the result will be, no one knows. Surely those in your part of the country who are so critical of Canadian banks and the Canadian banking system and who have advocated the adoption of something like America's Federal Reserve system, will now pause to consider seriously whether their advocacy of a change in our banking system has been wise! The collapse in the United States is indirectly a great tribute to the soundness of our Canadian banking system and bankers.

Ever yours faithfully,

LARGEST EVENING CIRCULATION IN WESTERN ONTARIO

# The Border Cities Star

A NEWSPAPER  
DEVOTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Windsor, Ontario

▼  
March 2nd, 1933.

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Quebec.

My dear General Currie:

It is possible you will remember me when you were in Windsor some years ago to attend a wedding. You gave me a fine interview in the hotel after your arrival. In the war I was with the Princess Patricia's.

By happy coincidence I had written the enclosed concerning a Coalition Government for Canada while you were speaking in Ottawa on the need for unity of political action to pull the Dominion through the present critical times. The Border Cities Star has always believed in the soundness of Union Government, particularly in times such as we are experiencing.

Supposing we had a Union Government, what would you think of the Cabinet suggested herewith? Would you suggest an entirely different personnel? It would be appreciated if you would reply and comment at length on the situation generally. By making people think and talk about Union Government, interest in the idea is quickened.

Would you accept a position in a Coalition Cabinet yourself?

I hope you are well and that we can all survive this battle of peace with as much success as Canada achieved in the battle of arms.

Sincerely yours,

*W.L. Clark*

# The Spectator

Hamilton, Canada

March 2nd, 1933

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

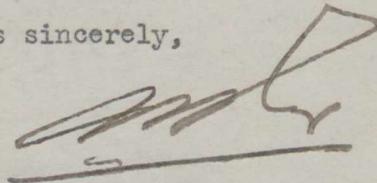
Dear Sir Arthur:

In view of your speech at Ottawa yesterday you will be interested in the enclosed editorial which appeared in yesterday afternoon's Spectator. I believe it is going to be a very hard job to secure national government at the present time owing to the difficulty of persuading politicians and party organizers to subordinate their personal and party interests to those of the country as a whole. Politicians and their camp-followers simply will not forgo either the anticipation or the realization of the power and perquisites of office until they are compelled to by an aroused and irate public.

I have been in Ottawa several times during the past month and with the necessity of a national government in mind have sounded out politicians and others of both parties. My observation has been that regardless of party those not in politics are in favor of it, but the politicians, particularly the Liberals, seem to be against it.

May I congratulate you upon your speech. It is very timely and very much to the point. Could I persuade you to come to Hamilton to make a similar speech some time in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



F. I. K E R.

P. S. I also enclose follow-up editorial which we carried in today's paper quoting your speech in Ottawa.

F. I. K.

March 4, 1933.

F. I. Ker, Esq.,  
The Spectator,  
Hamilton, Canada.

Dear Mr. Ker,

Thank you very much for your letter of the second and for the editorial which appeared in the SPECTATOR of the date March 1st. I cordially agree in your opinion that it will be very difficult to secure National Government at the present time. Mr. King, you will note, has hastened to disassociate himself and the Liberal party from any such suggestion, and last Saturday we had Mr. John Hackett, who represents a Montreal constituency (Conservative) voicing the opinion that the Conservatives would solve our problems, or go down to defeat.

To my mind, it is the power and prestige and privileges enjoyed by professional politicians which make them so prejudiced in their political views.

I have not it in mind to say anything further on this matter for some time. If I did, Hamilton might be a very choice centre in which to make any further statement.

With all kind wishes,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK R. PHELAN

MONTREAL.



2nd March, 1933.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

May I compliment you on your address before the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society which I read in the paper this morning. I am sure that your views are those of every sound-thinking business man as well as the unselfish politician.

What the country undoubtedly needs to bring about National Government is leadership, and you are the logical person to start such a movement. Surely this country can provide enough sound men to enable the Government to dispense with the wind bags who are now clogging the wheels of progress and give Mr. Bennett and the few capable men we have in both parties an opportunity to lead us out of the turmoil in which we are involved.

Yours faithfully,

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, GCMG, KCB,  
McGill University,  
Sherbrooke Street West,  
Montreal.

March 4, 1933.

Colonel F. R. Phelan, D.S.O.,  
Financial Service,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Fred,

Thank you very much for your note of the second re the address I made to the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society. I am afraid nothing will come, at present, of my suggestion. The professional politicians are clinging too much to the privileges and prestige which come of supporting a party in power. I think it is fair to say that they place the welfare of their party before the welfare of the country.

Ever yours faithfully,

March 4, 1933.

Randall Davidson, Esq.,  
1526 Crescent Street,  
Montreal. P. Q.

My dear Mr. Davidson,

I appreciate greatly your letter of March 2nd, in which you commend what I said at Ottawa to the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society of McGill University. I do not expect for a moment that the professional politicians will welcome my suggestion, and I had no conference with anyone before making it. I felt that it was wise and I know it will be received favourably by many people in Canada. The professional politician looks in the first instance to the welfare of his party. Others of us place that in a very secondary position. Our thoughts are centred first on the welfare of the country. I cannot help recalling that when I was making my suggestion at Ottawa the members of Parliament had spent all that afternoon in discussing whether Indians should have a vote or not. Could anything be more futile and hopeless!

Yours faithfully,

Montreal, P.Q.,  
March 2nd, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
3450 McTavish Street,  
Montreal, P. Q.

My dear Sir Arthur:

I read your very splendid and interesting address of last night to the Ottawa Valley Graduates Society, and I cannot resist the temptation of writing and congratulating you thereon. It is indeed a politically divided country, and I agree with you that for unity of action a national government is the proper thing. As you very rightly say, we are at present voting for or against someone, rather than for or against something. The population of this Dominion is less than ten million and we have an expenditure of upwards of eight hundred millions, which means more than \$80. per head of population, women and children included. We are over governed, and have too many politicians, lieutenant governors, ambassadors, and representatives in Geneva - that hotbed of intrigue, - all such living well and enjoying themselves; upwards of 744,000 passes issued annually on railways, and upwards of 30,000 courtesy passes.

As the American would say "Can you beat it?" My voice is a small one, and I have written on many occasions, but without effect; and as one crying in the wilderness. You are in a sufficiently <sup>prominent</sup> position to carry weight, but I am a well known old Canadian. Your address will certainly not go unnoticed by men of any influence; I trust it will do some good.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

*Randall Davidson*

OTTAWA VALLEY GRADUATES SOCIETY.

March 1, 1933.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Let me assure you that I realize and appreciate the honour that is mine in being permitted to join you in this function tonight.

It is often one's pleasure to dine with different groups of men, and occasionally to speak to them. But this gathering is unique. Membership in this gathering cannot be purchased; it is not decided by ballot; you cannot apply for membership and be elected; admittance here does not depend on your social rating, on the wealth you possess, on your political bias, or on your religious faith. No, these are not the things that determine your eligibility for inclusion here. There is another test, and that

2

test is absolute. You must be a McGill Graduate. That's the test; that's the tie that binds, and those only who know McGill and what she has been, what she is now, what she stands for, what her history and tradition have been, can appreciate the strength of that tie and the pride that goes with that badge of unity.

This organization is known as the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society of McGill University, one of the oldest, best known and most loyal Graduates' Societies of the University. We have here represented tonight men of many classes in our University, some of them many years apart. Many of you have travelled a long road and have passed through varied and trying experiences since the old days at McGill. At this gathering tonight you roll back the years and give again in memory, if only for an hour, with the friends of your youth, the events of forgotten years, and in so

doing you pledge anew your loyalty to the university and your support to the students of the present and of the future, and to your Alma Mater in all its undertakings.

McGill University holds a proud and honoured place in the educational history of Canada. In all parts of our country and in countries abroad it is spoken of in terms of the highest respect. Its reputation has gone out in splendour to the far ends of the earth. Its very name has been and is a symbol of honour and service. It has stamped its graduates with the badge of courage of fair play and of honest straight thinking. Perhaps its greatest asset is its fine tradition. It was founded in the adventurous days of more than one hundred years ago, when men lived closer to nature and when the worth of education was perhaps better realized than it is to-day. It was founded and nurtured in an atmosphere of

hard work and simple living. It has endeavoured to retain its finest spirit of courage and justice and service. It has ever kept before it the vision of a great united country, and it has yearly sent out its graduates filled with this spirit and endowed with this vision.

As you look back tonight through the mists of the years and recall what you received from McGill University, I am sure that you will all agree that you received a certain attitude towards life. Many of the facts and much of the knowledge have faded, but the attitude of mind remains. You will recall tonight great and kindly personalities who guided your thinking at the University. They were deeply learned, and their company was a privilege. They were wise and human and understanding, earnest in their search for what is best in life and in their application of

truth, and tonight you honour their memory.

Canadian universities have had for more than a century an honourable career, and have been important factors in the development of our people. The career of none of them has been more honorable than that of our own university. McGill University is more important to Canada today than it has ever been in the past, however glorious its past has been. Today, as never before, the world is calling to educated men for help in its time of trouble. We do not need to be told what that trouble is. It is known to us all, in a greater or lesser degree. These are trying days, when the hearts of men falter; as never before. Canada needs the power and energy of the trained minds of her educated manhood. Our ancestors appreciated the fact that

education was the bed rock of all advancement. Education is still the bed rock of all advancement. But we must see to it that our institution remains true to the purposes for which it was founded.

We must not forget for a moment the true function of our University. It is today, what it always was, to pass on the full heritage of a civilization. I think that sometimes in our present mood of fear and doubt and disillusionment we underestimate the solidity and permanence of that heritage. Change and the threat of change strike the attention most vividly. We exaggerate its extent and its importance and fail to realize how much of indestructible human achievement there is to pass on. Language and literature; science and mathematics; history and the

rationale of democratic life; painting and music and architecture; the hard won moral ideas of civilization; the main forms of economic co-operation; the central needs of religion; - these all grow and change indeed. But the more they change, the more they remain, in essence, the same things. It would be folly indeed if we allowed the darkened atmosphere of the present long-continuing storm to fix in us the impression that the whole human atmosphere was transformed. Or, to change the metaphor, the ship will emerge from the storm, battered and severely tested it is true, but it will be the same ship to take on the next consignment of passengers.

Nevertheless, there is a special duty of education in a time like this. It concerns the refilling and the reorganization of the ship that we shall have to effect, in the light of what the

storms may teach us about the art of navigation. In educational terms, there is demanded of us a more than usually drastic review and re-appraisal of the whole body of ideas upon which our ~~xxxxix~~ civilization rests. What of war and disarmament, of international understanding, of unemployment and a guarantee of economic security; of leisure and children, and the reconstruction of city and city life; of rural life and all its problems; of a revitalized religion - of the whole art of living? How are we going to guarantee that as a result of the storms there shall be both new and better insights into the art of navigation and a certainty that these insights will become effective? That question must indeed be asked. There is no use in avoiding the issue. That way lies chaos and hopelessness. We must put it honestly and squarely

to ourselves. If we refuse to do so, if we just stand pat and say, "There is nothing to be learnt," the retort may well be mutiny and the seizure of the ship. Then the untrained but exasperated navigators may take her on the rocks.

What are we, then, to do with the on-coming crew, the youth of to-day? The answer seems to me clear in at least one respect - Put them through a thorough discipline in the free handling of ideas. Ideas govern the world. There is no tariff against them. They cannot be boycotted. I spoke in the same sentence, you will notice, of "discipline" and "freedom". But there is no conflict here if we intelligently understand these terms. Undisciplined troops can never be trusted, neither can undisciplined thinking. Conviction must come only after long testing, after criticism and

analysis by the free, disinterested mind under wise guidance. As long as you believe in democracy, you must realize it can be saved in no other way. A free acceptance of free tested ideas is its very life.

If this be true, - and I believe it is true, - the importance of education in Canada and of Canadian education in the world is greater to-day than it has ever been before. Fore surely, to-day as never before we are face to face with new and difficult circumstances. We are in a world of vast unrest, a world where the cross-currents of the minds of men stir whirlpools of unguided force

he continued, our school-boys may fall short of the French and German in some respects and of the English in others, but in meeting practical emergencies "they act like men". "There is something in Canadian education," he said, "which gives a man power of dealing effectively with new and difficult circumstances, whether alone or in comradeship with others."

If this be true, - and I believe it is true, - the importance of education in Canada and of Canadian education in the world is greater to-day than it has ever been before. For surely, to-day as never before we are face to face with "new and difficult circumstances". We are in a world of vast unrest, a world where the cross-currents of the minds of men stir whirlpools of unguided force

that threaten to engulf and destroy rather than to create. In our world, true liberty is in danger of being crucified on the cross of false desire or false appeal, and true peace is in danger of being slain on the altar of international or inter-class jealousy and envy and hate and distrust. All around us we hear the murmurs of a troubled time. There are special appeals to the judgment and poise and tolerance of the Canadian people. Agricultural difficulties, agitations of miners, angry demonstrations by or in behalf of the unemployed, wild and whirling words uttered or written by those who call themselves Communists, - these and other occurrences are putting our country, like the rest of the world, on trial. And men are asking, Will our country emerge with the intelligent understanding of the grievances and demands of sections of our population, and, at the same time, retain their faith in the steadfastness of the mass of our citizens, and in the fitness of our political institutions to meet each great need as it arises?

library, in search with lens or spectrum, in enquiry into man's  
The scholar's passion for truth, showing itself in laboratory or  
seeks truth with intensity of purpose and desire and unselfishness.  
thinking, our last prob of society would example. The University  
institutions of modern society. Here they are held to dishonest  
must rest on our universities. They are the most honest of the  
For cultivating such thought, the chief responsibility

mortal."  
others springing up in other minds are able to make this seed im-  
"are not unfruitful, but contain seed within themselves, from whence  
to meet a changed world, - and without ideas that, in Plato's words,  
condition without thought, - thought reorganized and readjusted  
We cannot hope for recovery from our present protracted

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human conduct. Hence they are under human control.  
the shattered economic machine. Our discontents to-day flow from  
who will soon be coming to take their part in righting and mending  
vision and firmer courage and a steadier morale on the part of those  
men for rapid material gains. Our hope to-day is in clearer  
involved in existing defects, swept away as we were by the prevalent  
and to take an active concern in bettering conditions. We are all  
to see the moral defects of existing social and economic arrangements  
one of the functions of education is to equip individuals

three or four years ago  
prudence and caution which were so recklessly flung to the winds  
its head under clearing financial skies, and observe those rules of  
upturn in industry and commerce, - whether our country can keep its  
They are asking, too, another question, - *What* is the sign of an

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*W. L. ...*

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into man's place in the scheme of things, in the dreams and intuitions of the poet and the seer, - all this passes into the very blood-stream of the nation. Increasingly must we in the universities take thought of human relationships. An individualism that concerns itself with the individual alone, whether of person or nation, is doomed. And a utopian society that ignores individual ambition, initiative, ability and opinion, is likewise doomed. The universities must be centres of preparation for an individualism which has at heart a social concern for the good of the many. If we are to emerge from conditions which are so perilously near chaos, it is obvious that we must teach men to think straight. By ending crooked thinking we shall emerge from a witless wandering in the wilderness into the promised land of light and life and love.

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Today there is upon us all the compulsion to be thorough and to be patient. We must clear our world of its stones and weeds and refresh the intellectual and moral ground of our civilization. Today events are searching out the true stuff of our national character. Education must teach <sup>about</sup> a ~~reference~~ <sup>about</sup> for our traditions and for those methods and principles which have guided our country's progress. <sup>If these are right and true, reverence for them will follow.</sup> But at the same time education must teach men and women to grow with a constantly changing world, and to make adjustments in accordance with new needs and new problems. It is possible that our educational systems, however excellent they may have been, have not adequately equipped people to see or realize what they were <sup>and</sup> doing in national/international affairs. <sup>at least has not been adequate,</sup> It is apparent that wisdom has failed, and that education has some responsibility for

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the failure. We have too often, perhaps, pushed forward the frontiers of knowledge and scholarship, with too little attention to the relation of that frontier to human affairs; we have been emphasizing the necessity for research, without considering whether that research ever penetrated the field of action.

Never was the responsibility of education and of educated men and women so great as at the present time; never was the obligation and the opportunity of colleges and universities so great as in the present period of storm and stress in our tortured and sorely perplexed world. Our world is looking anxiously for light and for truth. Where are these to be found if not in our centres of learning?

Today as never before a definite obligation is imposed on trained minds, - on the best brains of our country, - to

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contribute their knowledge and their wisdom to the problems of the hour. Governments should have their aid and their advice. It is no small difficulty with which we are faced. These are grave and grievous days, and it would be unwise to speak lightly of their seriousness. The tough problems before the country can be solved only by tough minds. There can be no shortcuts to national well-being and contentment. We cannot emerge from our troubles by any haphazard steps. These hard times demand hard labour and hard thinking, and if we do not get these, the times will become harder. No mass of repeated statements that all is well can change the distressing facts. The most capable brains we have, and the most intense energy, are none too capable or intense for the immense labours necessary to lift our country out of its present condition. All our scattered forces must be

combined to lead us out of the morass of doubt and even of despair.

It is extremely doubtful, in my judgment, if our desired objective can be reached by a politically divided country. Unity of all, for the good of all, would seem to be our surest and safest guiding force. Sixteen years ago we had to meet a national emergency. We met it with unity. In that troubled time, all party prejudices and badges and slogans were forgotten or submerged, and as a people we moved forward in one solid front to victory. Not otherwise could we have found success. Today we are in a situation <sup>more</sup> perplexing and <sup>more</sup> serious <sup>as</sup> than that of 1917. The emergency is equally great, or even greater. Again we need a united effort and the submerging of all differences. Again we need to move forward to <sup>Security and Stability</sup> prosperity with one front, where prejudices and badges and slogans are forgotten. There is stagnant

industry; tottering business; hunger; distress; despair; - all urgently demanding redress. And redress can only come from unity of action, which can be made possible, or at least hastened, I believe, by a national government, representative of all the forces and all the thought of the country.

The establishment of such a power would mean sacrifice, a spirit of give and take, a measure of temporary compromise. But in the end it would succeed. In the past one of our political weaknesses has been the fact that we are all interested in voting for or against someone, rather than for or against something. We have been so strongly grounded in an inherited idea that no doubt could drag us away from our traditional position. Too often we have believed, - or at least acted as if we believed, - that our thoughtfulness or our intelligence must be measured by our

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tenacity to our party's principles rather than by what our reason dictated. We have too often based our estimate of public policies on the pages of a single partizan newspaper, rather than on our own examination of all sides of a question, with the result that our opinions as formed have been solidified into prejudice. Such an attitude can never lead us out of a crisis or an emergency, which can only be overcome and passed by the operation of united and harmonious strength.

The time is calling for such strength, as it never called before, even in war days. And in the call there is no criticism of any party or group or policy. National distress and national salvation know no party and no diversity. They know only a common objective, - the objective of rehabilitation

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and the salvaging of an almost wrecked world, - and surely the best means of reaching that objective can be agreed upon, even by men of ordinarily different views. That seems to me to be the first necessity in our present difficulties. With that accomplished, a more complete solution of our problems will follow. Let us seek first national harmony, and other things will be added unto us.

On the means of emerging from our perplexing difficulties there are, naturally, many diverse opinions. Many cures are suggested for the disease, by individuals and groups of individuals. Of these, many are experimental, and, to say the least problematical, in their results. Into these by paths to the promised, and perhaps the visionary land of better conditions I have no desire to enter tonight. It would take a long time to explore them all, and some of them end in "nowhere". ~~But there~~

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Irrespective of what our opinion may be on these vital questions, one thing is sure,--as the springtime dawns we are all looking toward the future. We are no longer, as we were when we rolled five years ago in an empty prosperity, living in the present. We are concentrating in hopes or fears as to what the future has in store. There is no fear of famine, - no dread of a lack of commodities, - but a dread of the proper distribution of these commodities to the suffering and the needy in exchange for their efforts, - the efforts which we call "work". Such fears and dreads move in cycles. They have existed often before in our history. In forecasting the future we must consider the past. It is here that the University, and the University product, are of utmost national value. There is a danger that if the depression

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continues, all sorts of quick remedies, because of ignorance, may be prepared and accepted for its cure. Such doubtful remedies have been characteristic of all periods of depression. We have emerged from one Fool's Paradise; we must not, in our growing, wander into another, following a will-o'-the-wisp guide. We must bring to bear, through education, all the resources of history and of a well-tested civilization in the form of ordered information and guidance and discipline, which will equip our people with that fair, impartial, detached and unprejudiced judgment so necessary in the present hour. Our future will depend on how far we understand our past and profit by its errors. That is a task for education, -and for men and women of education and trained mentality. And no task could be more alluring.

are certain reasonable adjustments which seem to me to be obviously essential, before we can make progress towards better days. With some of these you will probably not all agree, - for I realize that opinion upon them is not unanimous. At the same time, they are reasonable enough to deserve unprejudiced analysis.

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