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Glenn McPherson's Fonds

Correspondence, memorandums, newspaper clippings, 1949-48, 1984-94

FOLDER No. 3-2

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

... could have been more.

-2-

September 23, 1941.

Dr. E. H. Coleman, K.C.,

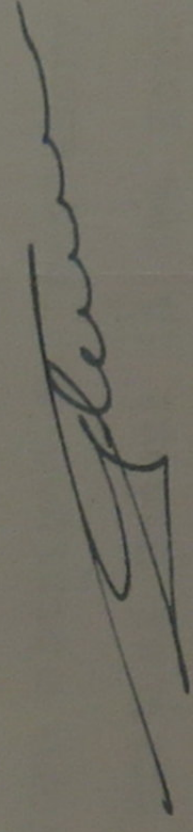
In view of special developments here I also asked that the confidential file which I had opened on Japan and the Japanese problem in British Columbia, together with the printed report, be sent down and I undertook to return it also. This information has been anxiously awaited by this office for over a week and I, of course, am sorry to have to inform them today that they cannot have it.

You, of course, will understand that any of the information or documents sent down come by hand and, naturally, every precaution is taken to see that the information is kept secret.

It would appear from Mr. Mathieu's letter that he wishes to take over this work and I understand that others in this office have advised Inspector Drysdale that they are anxious that Mr. Beckett continue as previously arranged with him and with yourself. I do not know why Mr. Mathieu has had to make the change or interfere with the arrangements but I thought I could bring it to your attention and I hope that, in your inimitable diplomatic manner, you will be able to iron out the situation. If we cannot get the information then an altogether new approach will have to be made to the other departments concerned which is undesirable since the fewer the contacts this office has with other departments, the better.

With kind personal regards to yourself and Mrs. Coleman and the boys,

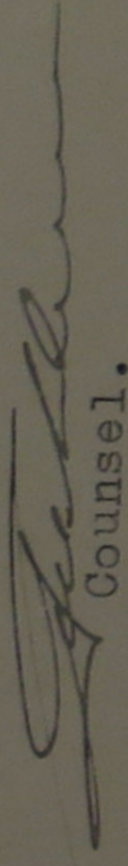
Yours sincerely,



GWMcP/L

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... that some definite benefit
may be obtained from these negotiations.



Counsel.

7/4/41

142 Crichton Street,
Ottawa, Ontario,
August 13, 1948.

Sir William Stevenson,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir William:

Like a voice from the past I finally get around to writing about a long outstanding matter and to say "hello" to Lady Stevenson and yourself. In my travels I have crossed your trail and have heard of your wanderings many times but I have never been fortunate enough to meet you. Jim Osler told me you were in Ottawa some time ago but I was at the Coast.

Immediately upon my return from Europe I resigned from the Government Service for the purpose of returning to the practice of law, and shortly thereafter was appointed as Government Counsel on a Royal Commission sitting in Vancouver. This necessitated my being in Vancouver most of the time from February until the 17th July. It also gave me an opportunity, in my travels across Canada, of renewing acquaintances and considering various opportunities offered, both in business and in law. As a result of innumerable interviews, and after careful consideration, I have decided to go into business after my counsel work is finished. I will be joining one of two large corporations either as an investment manager for the Pacific Coast and the United States and stationed in Vancouver or as the head of a legal department and stationed in Calgary. Both of these proposals are still under discussion but I believe the pull of Vancouver with its climate and future possibilities will win out.

Since my return I had hoped to get to New York at a time when you might be there but this has proved impossible. The principle reason why I am not at the Coast at the moment is because I came home in July in order that I might be in Ottawa when our third daughter arrived as she did last week. My present plans are to leave for Vancouver by car during the week of the 23rd August.

I have intended writing you about the \$1500.00 which you were kind enough to loan me at a time when I had decided to practice law in Ontario and wanted to obtain my call to the Bar here. The above indicates that the \$1500.00 was spent unnecessarily but on the other hand I have a legal status in two provinces and, who knows, but it might be useful some time in the future. You will recall that a couple of years ago I wrote you about repaying this loan and my recollection is that your secretary suggested

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informed and ill-written. By
childish perversions of fact—childish in the sense that they
are so easily exposed—Stevenson's eulogy of Stephenson

Peter Paret

Karl von Clausewitz 1780-1831

the matter stand. It may be that I even mentioned it to Tom Hill and that he mentioned it to you. Be that as it may, I am most anxious to liquidate this liability, together with interest which I feel is an essential part of the liquidation of the debt. If you would like me to return the money, plus interest, to the source from which I obtained it, I will be pleased to do so but I will await your instructions which can be addressed to me c/o The Custodian's Office, 506 Royal Bank Building, Vancouver, B.C. The advance of this money was most welcome and as between friends I do not think it is necessary for me to tell you how much I appreciated it. My only regret is that the plans which we so often discussed whereby we might have been associated in business, did not materialize. On the other hand, assuming that I accept the position in Vancouver, where I will be in charge of all investments for one of the largest life insurance companies, it may be that the very nature of my work might be of interest to you. I will always hope that Lady Stevenson and you will eventually decide to live in the "Garden Spot of Canada" in which event it would give me great pleasure to renew our friendship.

Last week I spent three days (now that I am out of the Government Service) at the Liberal Convention and was present at the election of the new leader. Many of my old political friends pressed me to enter politics but I estimate that with a wife and three children one either has to be a millionaire or a pauper to take an active part in Canadian politics for the purpose of being elected to the Commons. My father, who has some knowledge of these matters, has threatened that if he ever hears of my entering the political arena as a candidate, he will issue an order for my commitment to an insane asylum and he believes my actions alone would be sufficient to result in my being detained. On the other hand, my experience in politics and with politicians to date has indicated that the real power and money is not to be found by sitting in the House of Commons but by operating behind the scenes and pulling a few of the threads that elect members - who knows, I may get into this field without being too obvious.

I know that you are always interested in events and personalities and I have no doubt that Jim Osler has been keeping you informed of political trends here, and he is certainly more qualified than myself in this regard. On the other hand, not knowing what he has told you, another person's views may be of some interest.

In my travels in the West I gathered that one of the principle contenders for the leadership, namely James Gardiner of Saskatchewan, cannot be elected in his own constituency, and both the Liberals and Conservatives are going to find the going rough in Western Canada - particularly

the Liberals in view of the International Wheat Agreement and the Wheat Agreement with the United Kingdom. The increase in freight rates to Western Canada has not helped the Government and the austerity programme, high taxes and the rise in the cost of living are destroying the confidence the people had in the Brain Trust.

In Ontario George Drew is exceptionally strong and will, no doubt, be the leader of the Conservative Party after their convention in September. Duplessis in Quebec has already shown his strength and if Drew and Duplessis can team up and forget their prejudices and their conflicting interests, at least for the purpose of the election, it will, in my opinion, give the Conservatives a considerable majority in Ontario and a large number of seats in Quebec. The Liberals realize that Mr. St. Laurent is really too old to be put in as the head of a party and a new leader will have to be selected in probably another five or six years but he is the only hope of recovering the Liberal Party's position in Quebec. If they can stave off an election until the Spring of 1950, which they are entitled to do, but which is doubtful in view of their small majority, it may be they will have sufficient time to rebuild the ramparts of Liberalism by doing such things as reducing taxes, firing the bureaucrats, revising the whole freight rate structure of Canada and last, but not least, putting forward a platform of compromise between socialism and liberalism.

The Liberal Party will, no doubt, pick up a large number of seats in Newfoundland and in the Maritimes but my guess is that the next election will result in a stalemate. The only thing that will give the Liberals a majority will be if the C.C.F. continues its present trend of becoming a labour party rather than a farmers' party and this trend appears to be well on the way. There are many who would like to have seen Mike Pearson take over the leadership of the Party but that is politically impossible in view of the young and strong men in the Cabinet. I do not think Mike would be foolish enough to leave the security of his office and attach his wagon to what may well be a falling star. There is no question that St. Laurent is one of the great men of Canada but he is not a man of the people in Quebec as was Ernest Lapointe. He might also be correctly described as an amateur politician.

I do not know whether there is anything worthwhile in the above but I have the feeling that it will be at least ten years before the C.C.F. Party or their ilk take control of Canada. In view of the possibility, or should I say the probability, of war, they may even lose that chance, as war before the next election would greatly strengthen the position of the Liberal Party which everyone admits carried on an excellent war effort.

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informed and ill-written. By its
childish perversions of fact, it is
exaggerations and Peter Paret

- 4 -

If you have the time I would appreciate a note indicating whether or not there is any possibility of your visiting Ottawa before the 23rd August, or Vancouver this fall. I do not know where Mr. Hudd is but we used to have some great chats in London and, if by any chance, you run across him, would you please give him my kindest regards.

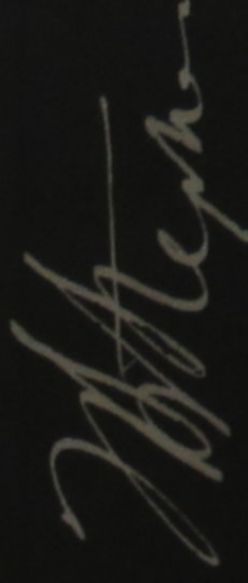
Yours very sincerely,

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I HEREBY APPOINT Glenn Willoughby McPherson,
Barrister-at-law, to represent me in all matters and
to be my Attorney with full power to act in case of
my death or inability to act for other reasons. I
give my Attorney full power to make any and all arrange-
ments as he may see fit to manage my affairs and I
HEREBY REVOKE any other appointments previously made
by me whether under seal or otherwise, and HEREBY
INSTRUCT all persons previously representing me or
having control of any of my property to accept direction
from my attorney, Glenn Willoughby McPherson, and to
act on his instructions. This appointment may be
revoked only by me in writing under seal.



W. S. STEPHENSON

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

in the Presence of

Wm. G. Turner this 9th

day of June, A.D., 1942.

Wm. G. Turner

A book that makes Pug
Trenchard in charge of the
Britain may be said to be short
tragedy that Sir William Stephe
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his wartime activities which is

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Re: INVESTIGATIONS

In accordance with a request received from Mr. O'Meara I attended at his office at 3.30 January 8th and met a gentleman there known as Mr. X. He was anxious to obtain information concerning, in particular, Schering Corporation of Montreal and Frank Common and his association with Ciba. Before disclosing any information, and much to Mr. O'Meara's amusement, I requested that Mr. X produce his credentials which would entitle him to the information. It subsequently transpired that Mr. X is a member of the British Secret Service and we found that we had a great deal in common relating to investigations, he openly expressing his envy of my being in the position where action can be taken, whereas he in a neutral country can take no action but must await the orders of London which are difficult to obtain.

Dr. Coleman subsequently joined the meeting and much to my amusement before making any statements asked exactly the same question as to Mr. X's credentials.

It appears that Schering Corporation in the United States is owned by Schering of Germany through the Swiss Bank and the British Intelligence are obtaining information as to the employees, with particular reference to Dr. Stragnell who is well known to me and who is the man to whom the Canadian company was sold. As I recall the agreement for sale with Dr. Stragnell I inserted a special provision that if it subsequently transpired that the American Corporation or Dr. Stragnell were found to be associated with or acting on behalf of enemies the Custodian would again seize the Canadian Corporation and Dr. Stragnell would forfeit the \$110,000 he paid for the business.

Mr. X is very anxious that the Custodian take no

action nor in any way raise a suspicion in the minds of the Canadian officials that the American company may be placed on the British List as an enemy. He indicated that the policy of the British Government will likely be changed shortly and many American companies will be declared to be enemies.

As regards the Ciba, he had information indicating that Frank Common was connected with this Company and that they were endeavouring to hide the true ownership of same. I explained what I knew about Ciba and he felt that the Canadian Custodian's files were far more complete than his in this matter and all questions relating to the German I.G. and its affiliated American and Canadian companies.

Minister and Mr. Gordon.

GWM/M
9/1/41.

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