

C. Mortimer Bezeau  
12 Ellen St. East  
Kitchener, Ontario.

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P E R S O N A L

Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King  
Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Mr. King:-

Now that parliament has adjourned, and the war has assumed a new phase, I trust that the mental and physical strain of the last several months will have decreased appreciably and you will be able to relax sufficiently to maintain good health

I observe that recently you completed twenty-five years as leader of the Liberal Party - a long time in the life of a man and, measured by events, a long time in the life of a comparatively young country such as Canada. During that period this country has risen from a mere colony to become one of the great countries of the world; and to be universally recognized as such. In the molding of all those events of which we may justly be proud you have taken a foremost part, for which the people of Canada should be truly grateful. I realize that in saying this I am but repeating what has been said by the great men of the world; and in doing so I can entertain no hope of adding to your reputation, or establishing my own. In fact one in humble life might well hesitate, for fear of being misunderstood, to associate one's self in any capacity with those eminent persons who recognize you and your achievements as worthy of their highest praise; but I know you will understand.

Great as have been your past achievements I believe that your most notable contribution to the welfare of Canada and of the world lies in the near future. Looking back over the years that have passed since my early youth I see the rise and fall of a great many political parties in Canada. Some were born of a justifiable desire for more rapid progress toward the higher goal of human welfare; others were born of selfishness and greed. All, save one, have passed away; but those of noble origin, before passing, gave birth to ideas which the years have developed and clarified, and which have become a part of the principles of the Liberal Party, and must live on forever. These principles will live, even though the party, as a political entity, should die. But the Liberal Party need not die. It should be as enduring as the principles which brought it into being, and molded and sustained it throughout the years. Visualizing the future in the light of the past the impartial student of Canadian affairs can scarcely avoid the belief that the welfare of Canada in the years to come will be linked with the Liberal Party; but if the Liberal Party is to accomplish that for which it was designed it must divest itself of those subversive elements which