



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

Leader of the Opposition

Ottawa, Ont. December 4th. 1922.

My dear Harry:

I have just received your letter of the 27th. instant.

First of all, I can have a copy made of Mr. Sastri's submission to the Prime Minister on the British Indian question, and will enclose it with this reply.

I remember quite well the matter you discussed when you were down here and cover now in this letter of yours. I did not know that that was what you referred to in your first letter. I would be surprised if you are correct that the Convention Committee is opposed to a Convention. They simply decided that there should not be one between last Session and this Session, and having so decided, they have, of course, no cause to meet in the meantime. I have called them together (feeling justified in doing so owing to the death of the Chairman, Mr. Stewart) for the first week of the approaching Session and have asked them to go again carefully into the matter of holding the convention this coming summer. A successor to Mr. Stewart must, of course, be first chosen.

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The Committee so far has power only in respect to the convention and matters appertaining thereto, but can be given power for further matters in organization if the Party thinks fit, - this, of course, all pending the convention. To have another Committee appointed with headquarters here would not be a difficult matter but its authority might be questioned as there would be no way of making the selection save by myself. You would have a lot of difficulty though, getting it together from ~~the~~ *all* ends of the Dominion unless you had an immediate, definite and big purpose and then you would have difficulty.

The Provincial Conservative Party of Ontario is functioning in consonance with our Federal Organization in that province excellently. You will always hear complaints but you need not worry on that score. I know what I am talking about in that regard and am in touch with the situation daily.

I took up the matter of holding conventions in the West while on my last trip. You would, of course, find many in Regina who wanted it, but I took the pains to get all the leading men there together on two different occasions and thoroughly reviewed the whole matter. The opinion generally was against it, and I may add, chiefly

by those who would have the whole responsibility of attending to the finances if it were called. They want a Convention but think it is too soon yet. The same is true of Alberta. As to British Columbia, I would be glad to have any specific suggestion as to how we could improve co-ordination or help from ~~the~~ federal sources. I think it could be done as time goes on, but I do not think that any very definite, immediate advance can be made. I have been expecting to hear from Mr. Bowser in regard to a discussion we had on the train coming from Vancouver last August, and probably he will be writing me shortly.

We are just through the Lanark by-election and have had a hard, strenuous fight. The Government had a man at every gate-post and a woman in every kitchen; Government motor cars, paid singers, paid everything. It will be of real value to us to win that election and that is what we have been centering on lately.

Give them all the help you can provincially in British Columbia but hold to your seat in Centre Vancouver. A good front and a strong battle this coming Session would make organization a good deal easier during next summer.

Yours very truly,

Honourable H. H. Stevens, M.P.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

