

Montreal 14 Nov 1845

Confidential

My Dear Sir,

You will offer the kind evidence you have placed in me, & expect again to hear from me what under all circumstances I think should be attempted in order to accomplish the single end we have proposed to ourselves, namely to facilitate the formation of a Government which would ~~possess~~ <sup>possess</sup> the confidence of the Country generally. I have reflected again & again on the matter, with an anxious desire to effect a good understanding with the party with whom you are connected as constituting the majority of Lower Canada and representing in the Assembly the illness of Lord Metcalfe has prevented my leaving the question before him. But the result of my own views, I may fully say before you -

I feel seriously that there are obligations which as a politician and as a man of honour I can not throw aside as regards others, while on the other hand I feel free to expect from others that which on public grounds, I have prepared to do. - Now I am, as I told you ready to make way as regards my own office, I do not value public life enough to cling to it or to take any course but that which

I am

The Hon. R. P. Carr

I am openly justifying, to remain in it. So much  
for myself —

I have felt our Council required to be  
strengthened and that the offices of ~~Speakers~~ of the  
Legislative Council and President of the Executive  
Council might be united as a public saving  
in furtherance of my Design.

The position of Mr. Viger I feel entitled him  
to every possible consideration on my part. Every  
regard to his feelings and his wishes should & must be  
(as you will I am sure feel) be shown by me. But  
I will not conceal from you, nor indeed have I, that  
I have long viewed his retirement from the position  
he occupies, as essential to the strengthening the  
Government, the mode of effecting it is another  
consideration.

As to my other ~~former~~ former ~~colleagues~~ colleagues  
Messrs. Dalglish, Papineau & Smith I can state to you  
what I believe to be their feelings, especially the  
two former. They are not desirous to stick to office  
to disapprove the present or any Government in forming  
the Council. With Mr. Papineau I have often  
held conversations from which I feel certain  
that he would not hesitate a moment between  
retiring to benefit his country and remaining to  
create difficulties. With regard to Mr. Smith I have  
held no communication with him on the possible  
question of his retirement.

I can answer for Mr. Morris & Mr. Bailey as  
for myself that our holding office is dependent on

our doing so on terms which will not compromise  
our character as individuals and will be of public  
service - if either of these grounds fail us, we would  
retire - no difficulty can arise with either of us in  
making any arrangement for a good government

This being premised, I wish to put to you  
this question to prevent all misunderstanding hereafter,  
and to enable me to act fairly in the matter  
towards those with whom, as though no bond I  
have to act, as I intimated to you, in my last:  
what offices would require to be vacated, or  
what changes made in the present Administration  
in order to satisfy the just expectations of the  
people generally, and to secure their  
support? I do not ask you to name at the time  
for such a proposition has not arrived - but if I can  
think the way of making it - but if I can  
state distinctly what is expected as the Sine qua  
non, I am in the position to lay the case  
fairly before the proper parties, and to consult  
with them all as to what we will advise -

You will, I am sure see I can not otherwise  
act an honorable part to my colleagues -

As to our communications, have been  
of a character confined to ourselves; for my esteem  
for your character and my confidence in your  
judgment and from the high position you held  
I sought an explanation, that I might, opening

Very

my own views ascertain (if you felt right to communi-  
cate yours) which proposal there was of a separate  
meeting. So far I believe our opinion has been  
mutual. Your last letter contains a pleasant and  
interesting deposit of the General views of yourself  
and political friends. I can now go forward, the  
business I have your answer, but as my course  
forward is to lay the question before the  
Governor and my colleagues, I can not do this  
involving your name, without your full consent  
and added to it the expression of your opinion  
on the question I have put as to the necessary  
changes.

Believe me

Yours faithfully & sincerely  
W. M. Drake

19 Dec: 1845  
W. M. Drake  
E. Hon: Cassin  
Cassin