

Hon R. B. Bennett,
Hotel Chateau
Ottawa

313. 15th Ave E. U005880
Calgary, July 17, 1937, th

Dear Sir

I notice you are returning to Canada. Needless to say we missed you.

But hope the trip benefited you in many ways, your health and spirits etc. And that you will be able once again to take the helm of the ship of state, and lead us safely into port. You know there is no one more capable in all the world to guide us out of the muddle we are in now. Conditions west are dreadful. And we see no hope ahead. The Liberal Party surely has made a complete failure. They do not seem to have the understanding like you do of the needs of the west. And the corrupt methods they use, are vicious to say the least.

You remember me telling you, Mae had no work. But was waiting each day patiently, to go back to the Highway job.

Well as far as he was concerned It never materialised

So I had him write to Mr Wardle for reasons for such treatment. And the answer came back.

"Owing to his wife's Alleged Political Activities"
Was the main reason. Altho Mae had definite information, from the engineers. Owing to his efficient manner in handling the men, and getting most work out of them. The engineers,

had specially asked for him to be sent up.

Now my political views, had nothing to do with my husband. Besides, I had not been mixed up politically nor otherwise, since your campaign closed. Because I am raising Johnnie's little girl, and she is just eight. I have had to nurse and care for her since she was a baby. And my own health has not been any too good.

But it is the cruel patronage system which is at fault. And Joe Shaw is paying me for working against him in your favor, during past elections. But why should my husband be penalised for my activities Political or otherwise. When I left Scotland I was not questioned regarding my Politics. Just asked did I intend to make a good citizen under the supposed "Freedom of the British Flag." I have faithfully carried out my part of the bargain. But I am prepared to say I am not getting the Protection of that Flag when thro such a paltry excuse, My husband a Canadian is denied the right to earn for me a living. Because I worked to own a home. We cannot go on Relief. That is left for the lary good for nothing drifter. So what solution can you offer must I lose all, I have earned, Because I worked to get you elected. Mr Bennett it is most vicious, and corrupt. and can only bring disaster. The children I have raised must rebel against this condition. If McDonald was a lary good for nothin I'd get rid of him. But to see an able bodied man day after

day walking the shoes off his feet seeking work only to be told (only those on Relief can be accepted) ^{fit} is lowering the morale, and making bitterness of soul. against such a corrupt system. Soon I shall have nothing left, But regrets that I ever thought justice, would be done where people were upright, and honest. West Calgary is your constituency, Have you anything to say in this matter.

I deplore having to bring this to your notice. But there seems to be no way out otherwise. And I am sick of passing the buck, and ^{getting} handed out Alibi's. At the age of 57 years. I trust you are not too tired reading this letter.

But the sooner Politics is taken out the pick and shovel jobs the sooner will this Canada of ours adjust herself.

Thanking you for past favors.

I remain as ever

your very sincere friend

Jean M^cDonald

P. S.

Please ask Mr Wardle why M^cDonald did not go on the Highway this year. Thanks you.

2486 112 C

Ottawa,
21st July, 1937.

Mrs. Jean McDonald,
313 - 15th Ave., East,
CALGARY - Alberta.

Dear Mrs. McDonald,-

Mr. Bennett has not yet returned to Ottawa although we are expecting him in a day or two, and I will immediately bring your letter to his attention.

In the meantime, I find that Mr. Wardle is in the West and will likely be in Banff about the 24th or 25th of this month. I have written him asking why Mr. McDonald did not receive an appointment. I am doing this as he might get away from Banff before it would be possible for Mr. Bennett to communicate with him, and while he is in the West perhaps something could be done on Mr. McDonald's behalf.

It does seem a pity that you have to face these conditions after all your hard work.

I do not know just when Mr. Bennett will be in the West but I should think he would go out some time within the next few weeks if possible.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

O t t a w a,
21st July, 1937.

J. M. Wardle, Esq.,
c/o Engineering Services,
BANFF, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Wardle,-

Perhaps you will remember the case of Mr. Jack McDonald, who was a foreman on the Highway. I understand he was a very good man but that he has not been given his job back because of the political activities of his wife.

The fact is Mrs. McDonald was active in the Labour Party but in 1930 supported Mr. Bennett. This should not be held against her, for a great many Liberals must have done the same thing as evidenced by his majority. We have heard nothing of Mrs. McDonald since that time; and Mr. McDonald, as I understand it, has taken no active part in any political party. All he wanted was work.

Under the circumstances, is it not possible for Mr. McDonald to secure work on the Highway? I am not interesting myself in him in any political way but I do happen to know that Mrs. McDonald was a very hard-working woman who ran a boarding house to make her living and she was under the impression that after her marriage to Mr. McDonald her financial troubles had ended. She is now sixty years of age and feels that an opportunity might be afforded to her husband to secure some work. This apparently he can do if he will go on relief but he has kept off relief so far and certainly does not want to accept relief if it can be avoided.

.....42.

J. M. Wardle, Esq.
#2.

21/7/1937.

I hope you are well, and with kindest
personal regards,

I am,

Yours faithfully,