

Pf Stanley Sept. 7

Dear Mr. Loshair.

It was a pleasure, as
always, to get your long
newsy letter with news about
your writing and the parks
situation. I had such a
nice letter, too, from Mr. Chretien,
about the Northern Islands.
The reason I wrote, I had
always felt some anxiety as
to what had become of them.
Mr. Harkin considered them as
"classified" and they were never
kept among our own files. When
he retired he took them to his
own home and Miss Barber
found them there after his death.
She suggested that I should
keep them but I felt they
should be placed somewhere

among other historical documents as they might have something of value if the sovereignty was ever questioned. But I had never heard what had become of them and did not know if they might have some value just now, I ventured to write Mr. Christie.

I think part of Mr. Harkin's concern was that he felt Stephenson to be unreliable and he was in very bad odour with the government. I don't know just what the papers were but I do know that J. B. went time and time again to the Secretary of State, pressing action when they at last agreed to do so, Capt. Bernier came to our office and Mr. Harkin

and he made out the plan
and the list of supplies for
the first expedition.

You see, it had nothing really
to do with our own work,
except that J. B. was very much
interested in preserving the wild
life as a food for the Eskimos.

He was always thinking of
the whole of Canada. For
example the Reindeer experiment,
and the discovery of the great
Tar Sands - now so important.
Did you know he had a road
in Jasper park paved with the
stuff. Then he & F. H. H. R.
spent many nights trying to
find a cheap substitute
for road making. He felt

must be ^{some} cheap chemical substance which could be combined with say, sand dust which would make a hard surface. They did get some promising results but about that time the other work grew too heavy.

I'm so sorry to hear about the northern buffalo herd. It promised so well. You spoke of the Wainwright park. It had, of course, grown too small, but they were keeping the herd down by selling it for meat. The meat is delicious, better flavour than beef - if young - but it was hard to popularise. I was told that the real reason for closing the park - that speculators thought there was oil there & I don't know. It was after I left.

One thing you may not have come across was Dr. Harkness's interest in developing

Canadian handicrafts, souvenirs.
He had a survey made of
all the provinces to see what mat-
terial was available. They did find
china clay out west, and a won-
derful pink quartz deposit in New
Brunswick. He also got the rail-
ways interested in designs for
their textiles and china using
Indian motifs. Mr. Beddall de-
signed some for china - not very
good - & the men & women pris-
oners in Kuper's pen made
some fine hooked rugs, and a
very beautiful Pink Quartz bowl.
He had formed a Shong Committee
with members of the Group of Seven,
Dr. Barbeau, Harold Smith, etc.
but just then Mr. Bennett came
in and our friends in the pen-
itentiaries was removed, Gibson
came to power and the whole
thing fell through.

even you are writing about him
as his credit for starting
the whole world in developing tourism
travel as a source of income.
and really, ~~settling~~ ^{forming} the philosophy
of National Parks. The idea of
"Wilderness Areas" was wholly his.

I have been spending the summer
at Lake Erie but will be going up
to town very soon. My future is
a bit uncertain. My faithful
housekeeper, who had been with
the family for 30 years, has de-
veloped cancer and the case is
terminal. I'm not sure what
my future will be, but hope a
friend ~~will~~ ^{may} go with me to Florida.
It has been a shock in every way
but I am hoping there will be
a happy solution.

My kindest regards to both
Mr. Rotheau + yourself, and I shall
look forward to your next
instalment. M. B. W.

MB Williams, Port Stanley, to WF Lothian, 7 September [1970]

Dear Mr. Lothian,

It was a pleasure, as always, to get your long newsy letter with news about your writing and the parks situation. I had such a nice letter, too, from M. Chretien, about the Northern Islands.

The reason I wrote, I always felt some anxiety as to what had become of them. Mr. Harkin considered them as "classified" and they never were kept among our own files. When he retired he took them to his own home and Miss Barber found them after his death. She suggested that I should keep them but I felt they should be placed somewhere

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strong committee with members of the Group of Seven, Dr. Barbeau, Harlan Smith, etc. but just then Mr. Bennett came in and our friend in the penitentiaries was removed, Gibson came to power and the whole thing fell through.

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I have been spending the summer at Lake Erie but will be going up to town very soon. My future is a bit uncertain, my faithful housekeeper, who had been with the family for 30 years, has developed cancer and the case is terminal. I'm not sure what my future will be, but hope a friend may go with me to Florida. It has been a shock in every way but I am hoping there will be a happy solution.

My kindest regards to both [Mrs.?] Lothian & yourself, and I shall look forward to your next instalment.

M.B.W.