KMM 1 TKP 68a

1.

Bright Bank.
Alberta Canada
13 April 1935.

Chief Tshekedi,
Paramount Chief of the Bechuanas.

Honorable Sir,

I have recently read with the greatest sympathy your staunch and steadfast appeals that your protectorate of Bechuanaland shall remain under the rule of the British Government, instead of being administered by the Union of South Africa. I wish to state that I heartily agree with you on this most important and vital question, as regards to the future welfare and well-being of your people. I presume that your view point is as follows — That if your Protectorate was administered by the Union; your country would be only a bone of contention for two rival political factions to squabble over, in order to graft, exploit and plunder your country and people, and that you feel far safer in the more trust-worthy hands of the British Colonial Administ-

KMM 1 TKP 68a

-ration, in which most important issue, I most whole heartedly agree with you. We people in Alberta ~~are~~ are engaged in a similar struggle for our political and especially our economic liberties.

Thousands of people in Canada are living in semi starvation, poverty and distress in the midst of plenty; and as we are going to have a provincial election this summer, we are going to vote against ALL the old political parties and endeavor to govern this Province of Alberta by the people and for the best interests of the people.

The new party is called the Social Credit party and we are going to try and run our own affairs, instead of letting the big bankers, manufactures and big business run our affairs for us, as under the present system we are only economic slaves.

Whereas Communism is brought in power as in Russia, by force and violence and denying God, our new order of things

KMM 1 TKP 68a

will be founded on the direct teachings of God as set forth in the Gospels of his son Jesus Christ. We will endeavour to do away with money, hoarding and slavery of woking people ~~by~~ for profit. One of our leaders in a recent conference said that "— "Practically everyone in the city of Edmonton (the capital of Alberta) regardless of race, creed or religion is behind us!" "There is a revival of Christianity in Alberta since Mr Aberhart began his Social Credit campaign. You can't love your neighbour under the old system — it would not be good business." Another speaker said "Only one power can break high finance (big business) and that is the power of the people. High finance will spend millions of dollars in Alberta between now and the election to beat us, but don't be bluffed." — So you see Chief that we are also in a vital struggle for our economic liberties, the same as you. The King recently said in his Christmas

4

speech that we are all one big family. He is quite right, and if part of that family suffer the rest ought to suffer in sympathy as we ought to be all one in Christ. I foresee that one thing the Union will do to you, as Eastern Canada as done to us in the West. They put a tax on honest British hardware and iron mongery and sold us a lot of inferior junk made ~~it~~ in Eastern Canada for dozens of years. and also inferior Canadian texiles instead of the better made British goods.

The ~~tax~~ situation here ~~is~~ like a great long milch cow that stretched east and west, her head grazed ~~and~~ in Western Canada and she ~~is~~ milked in Eastern Canada.

I should be very greatly obliged to you, if you would be so kind as to keep me informed as to your success in keeping independent of South African party politics. My youngest brother Gordon was a British magistrate in Zanibar & Pemba

KMM 1 TKP 68a

before the War, and he was on the staff of an army operating in German East Africa and he is buried in Plot IV section B11 grave 9 in Kilwa Kivinje Cemetery, now Tanganyika. As an afterthought, as I am a very keen stamp collector and as I have no stamps from your country, I should be extremely thankful for a few used specimens from your Protectorate.

We have put in a very long hard winter here. The snow yesterday was lying nearly a foot deep in the fields and last night it blew and snowed all night and long after daylight this morning. I have been here since the summer of 1903 and we had a similar very late spring in 1904 and 1920. We will not be able to get on the fields for spring work until the end of April and generally we can plow about the 10th April. I wish that I was able to come over to Bechuanaland to speak for you and advise you. I have nothing much to do

6

these days. I go up to the Canadian Rocky Mts in June and stay to the end of September. I am employed on the staff of a large summer hotel there. I am well known there so you may address your reply to me there at Jasper. Alberta Canada. Finally whatever you do; do not use force or violence to obtain your ends, as violence only breeds further violence in retaliation. There is a society in London England "called "The Society for the Protection of Aborigines" that of course means the original native races of a country. Have you appealed to them for help in your problem yet? I think the address:-

The Society for the Protection of Aborigines."
London. England.

will find them, as the British postal authorities are very clever at delivering only party addressed letters.

Yours most cordially & sincerely
Herbert L. Stirling