



Re: 1/7/30/2/15 SEPTEMBER, certainly.
26th October, 1948.

Thank you very much for your letter of 18th Sept. I found your observations on your Swiss holiday very interesting. Apart from a railway journey from Milan to Geneva and a few days at the latter place, I unhappily know nothing of Switzerland.

We are now nearing the end of the Parl: session and I hope to be back home in Pretoria by the end of this week. It has lasted just about 8 weeks and I have been down here alone, Mrs. H. having remained behind in Pretoria. The house we used to have down here is of course no longer available to us, now that I am not a Minister, but in any case it would not have been a good plan to take my mother to. It is in a damp part of the Cape Peninsula and this has been a somewhat unpleasant winter. I have spent half my time down here in a Club, and half in a ~~KKXKX~~ hotel, and preferred the former. I have also been up to see Mrs. H. twice. Air travel makes these things possible.

From the political point of view the Session has gone off quite well for us in the Opposition, allowing for the inevitable difficulties of readjustment to a new situation. But the business has been mainly of a routine financial? character and we have not got down to grips. Next session should be extremely interesting and important. Meantime there are a couple of bye-elections impending - also a Provincial General election next March, and these should give an indication as to how the political wind is blowing.

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For myself I am still relishing the freedom of Ministerial responsibility. I sometime recall the lines in Lucretius (suave mori magno?) where he describes the pleasure of watching ~~KKXKX~~ from the shore others who are making heavy weather out at sea. I am also enjoying good health, so that I feel that I have little to complain of.

Yesterday I took delivery of a new motor car - my first for none yrs - quite an exciting experience. It is my fourth Chev. I regret that I am not assisting you in your export drive. Incidentally we also, as a result of having postwar imports from USA, are now having a problem of a dollar gap, and our gold reserve built up during the war is draining away. One of our criticisms of the Govt is that it is doing nothing about it, but is just waiting for something to turn up.

A week or two ago some Australians came to see me with a letter of introduction from our Balliol friend Byth?. He is still Town Solicitor of Brisbane, and apparently happy and prosperous, domestically and otherwise.

We are expecting the MCC cricket team in a few weeks' time. They won't find as quite as difficult to beat as were the Australians. You will be interested, and doubtless surprised, to hear that I expect to be playing against them myself. The Gov. General has a cricket ground at Govt House, and I captain his team. The MCC has accepted an invitation to spend a day at Govt House on Dec 2 and to play some holiday cricket. The GG has asked me to get together and captain a team of ex SA International cricketers to play against this.

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