**LSE Morel F8/23/466-467**

**Casement to Morel**

**30 January 1910**

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My dear Bulldog,

 Your letter of 5 Janry to hand – It was indeed strange that Jones, Leopold and Monkswell should all three have died so close upon each other –

 The “Times” has been at its old game of ratting – a game it is adept at.

I think the Leopold game is played out and that the new King will do his duty – if he can. But the truth is as you have again and again put it, that until the Belgian nation is told they must foot the bill and not the poor Congo “taxpayers”. That is the crux of the situation that the needed revenue must be provided by Belgium for her colony – and not by the colony for Belgium.

You do right to keep this fact always to the front – for in it lies the only possible reform. Good intentions and paper decrees will not end the Congo misery –

It would be a great thing if you could see the young King – but I suppose too risky a step for him to take – Did he really kick Wahis out? That was a good step – especially if he did it knowing all W’s past on the Congo.

I suppose Grey will go on just the same. The Govt it seems to me will have a good working majority (including Ireland!) for much of its work, altho’ not a big enough mandate to tackle the Lords – if even sufficient to carry the Budget –

I did not think they would get over 100 – but from last night’s telegrams they have already 113 and with 25 more seats to poll, of which they ought to get far the biggest half they should have a majority of 125 about – which is a good enough one for all purposes. Of course the Irish party are not Liberals and have a special work to do for Ireland. How it will all end for poor old Ireland God alone knows.

The Albert Hall meeting evidently frightened the Belgian profoundly – all their lies and truculence disappeared in that cunning “National” manifesto they issued – that was practically a chucking up of the sponge I thought by them – it was an appeal to the English to believe that the horrid past had gone forever & that now they were alive to their duties and determined to do them – but you ask rightly for the proof of this new determination – and that can only come in the Belgian budget.

I have been very seedy of late indeed – and would dearly like to get away on leave if F.O. will allow me – but I am not sure of that. The heat has been & is very great – 100 degrees the other day in my office – & yesterday 95 and 99 in the train coming up in the evening. I am staying up at Petropolis for the present – 2300 feet above the sea – to get out of the heat but have to go down every day to that hateful city.

However enough of me – I am often thinking of you my dear old Bulldog & wish I could have been more help to you. Please God I may be out of this before long and we will have long yarns together.

 How is Mrs Green? I hope she is as well as ever.

 I am glad you are losing Harris – I never trusted him over much. I think he took up the cause when he saw it was on the road to success – but there I won't say harsh things. He did his share to help on the good cause – & we should be grateful –but you will be better alone. C.R.A. ought not to give up the fight in sight of victory. It has been a wondrous fight and now the end is indeed in view – but you are absolutely right to keep on the clear insistent demand for Budgetary proof – & it is there that the King & all the rest of real Belgian reformers will have their work cut out for them.

My love to Mrs Morel and the dear wee kids – getting big kids now as you say – Would I were with you – Yours ever & always

Tiger.