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FROM GEO. S. MONTGOMERY.

November 25, 1909.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 18th inst., relative to my giving you information as to my experience with the administration of the so-called "Lemieux Act", providing for the investigation of industrial disputes, will say that I have acted as chairman on a Board of Conciliation, an account of which case you will find on page 233 of the Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1907-1908, which report you can obtain from the Dominion Government at Ottawa unless you already have one in your possession. I have also had the further experience of having been prosecuted myself under the law, the result of which I consider an unjust application of the law itself; and further, I have had the experience, within the last three months, of preventing a strike in my own mind and also preventing a lockout by application to the Government for a Board of Conciliation, which in this case it was not necessary to grant as the matter was settled by mutual agreement.

My judgment is that the law as it now stands is a great step towards settling the disputes between labour and capital.

The only weakness in the law, (if there is any weakness in this law any more than in any other law), is that the employer, being the responsible party, is compelled to obey it, whereas the employes may at times evade the law through the influence of politicians and demagogues in office. If I should suggest any change, it would be to strengthen the law against the employes so that they would stand in the same position as the employer in being compelled to respect it.

My own opinion is that it would be well to extend the same principle to all employments where the principle involved in all employments is the same.

For your information I enclose a statement of facts regarding this law and which are embodied in a speech made at Winnipeg a few months ago in a debate between two universities, and whose address is 31 Everett St. He has made a thorough study of this Act and might be able to give you more information than I can at the present time.

Yours very truly,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA