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FROM W. C. SIMMONS.
Lethbridge, Alberta.

November 22, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge your letter of the 18th. inst. and I beg to advise you that I have only sat on one board of conciliation under the Industrial disputes and the Investigation Act, but as solicitor for the United Mine Workers of America, District 18, which includes practically all the coal miners in Alberta and British Columbia, I have considerable knowledge at first hand of the workings of the Act, but I do not at the moment think of any suggestions that I would like to make, upon changing the law as it stands.

I think however that the law might very well be extended to all industrial disputes.

In the actual working out of the Act it is very seldom that the parties can agree upon the third arbitrator and the greatest care should be exercised by the Department of the Government administering the Act to choose a proper person for the third arbitrator. Especially is this true by the matter of taking evidence as the representatives recommended by the parties to the dispute are frequently quite inexperienced in this regard and the chairman or third arbitrator should be a person with some knowledge of the rules of evidence and possessing the necessary administrative qualities to compel the observation of the same, otherwise the investigation is likely to take the appearance of a heated controversy between the parties.

yours truly,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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