

Thornton
Opie.

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Get Down to Business

IT is more than time for the propaganda that has been industriously circulated through federal government channels in regard to the president of the Canadian National Railways Board of Directors to cease, and for Sir Henry Thornton to get down to business. The railways are not going to be salvaged, as Hon. Arthur Meighen very properly points out, by speeches. Nor will fulsome propaganda about the president save any dollars for the people of Canada. What is needed now, and has been needed for months, is hard work on the part of the management. Application to duty and intelligent direction of the vast interests entrusted to the management are the only things that can be of any value to the owners of the railways.

Mr. Meighen says that the country has already lost fifteen million dollars by the government's delay in consolidating the Grand Trunk with the National system. He is not given to making unwarranted statements, and we may accept it as true that the loss has really been made. It has been made because of the continued expense incidental to separate management of two systems. The elimination of excessive overhead by co-ordination would have affected great savings and have given the country better service. We have all accepted Sir Henry Thornton in good faith, and are ready to accord him a fair trial; but we must see him at work; and the people of Canada will be a good deal better pleased with activity in that regard than they are with the stream of adulation which is gouting out from government propaganda sources.

It is known now that Sir Henry was not found by the government. He found the government. If he had not found the government and applied for the position of president, the government would still be looking for a man; and the enormous waste of duplicate management would still be going on. In fact the waste is in large measure still being incurred by the country. And it is high time for Sir Henry and his directors to settle down to business.

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