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JOHN MOFFATT, DOMINION, C.B.

November 22, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of November 19th., enquiring about the "Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act." From the time the law was proposed up until the present, I have always looked on it with favor, as I think it is wise legislation. I have had some little experience with it all over this Province, and the more I see of it the more I am impressed with its fairness, to both parties of the dispute.

It is too early yet to say what changes are desirable. Some of the Trade Councils of this Country have met and discussed certain changes and placed them before the Government, but they have been met with the reply that the Law is to have a fair test before it is ammended in any way.

"As to whether it might well be extended to apply to all employments", will depend upon the state of the Labor sentiment of Massachusetts. The Canadian Federation of Labor at the Convention held in Ottawa last September, decided to ask the Government to extend the law to all classes of employment. Whether this will be done by the Government, I am not in a position to say, but I do not think it would hurt the parties to any dispute to have public investigation into the cause of the dispute.

The success of the Act after all, depends upon the members of the Board formed to decide the dispute. If they are big enough for the work and understand that all through they are merely conciliators, they will succeed in almost any case where the parties are reasonable.

Trusting that I have answered all your question satisfactorily, I am,

Yours sincerely,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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