

mended Government control and operation of all railway lines in Canada during the period of the war. (This resolution is quoted in Appendix B of this argument.) We are convinced that Government control and operation should be carried into effect at the earliest possible date. We could, at the risk of disregarding the suggestion of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, elaborate our reasons for advocating this policy. Under the circumstances our opinion on the subject may be stated very briefly. The Chief Commissioner, during the hearing at Winnipeg, was careful to exclude references to alternative proposals for curing railways ills, and there is no inclination to question the correctness of his ruling. We declare our firm belief that the financial troubles responsible for the "casualties" among railway companies in Canada can be relieved only by the application of organic treatment. This policy may seem radical and rigorous at first glance, but we are fortified by the example of Great Britain and the United States. It has been said that in every country, except Canada, now engaged in active warfare, the railway lines are under the control and operation of the State, and we have no reason to doubt that assertion. Transportation is in our opinion as important a factor in the prosecution of the war as recruiting, the supply of munitions or any other element that engages the attention of the military authorities. Viewed from that standpoint alone, the step we advocate has abundant justification. Some of the other reasons are concerned with economic considerations, and these are mentioned in our resolution on the subject. We are satisfied that the proper adjustments with respect to finances can be made at the close of the war. In the meantime the Government may consider it has a mandate from the people to enter into agreements with the various railway companies by which it will take over all the lines in the Dominion.

With respect to the policy to be followed by the Government when it takes over the control and operation of all the railways, we repeat the wording of the third clause in our resolution (Appendix B): "The details of the proposed action may be worked out by the Government in consultation with recognized transportation experts in Canada. We would offer no suggestions in this respect, other than that every care should be taken to protect the interests of the public."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THE WINNIPEG BOARD OF TRADE
(Shippers' Section)

E. D. MARTIN (Chairman).

A. E. BOYLE (Secretary).

Winnipeg, February 4, 1918