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R. HILL WYERS      WINNIPEG.

November 24, 1909.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst. regarding the working of the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act has been received and I regret that my time is so fully occupied as to prevent my answering your questions thoroughly.

Generally speaking the Act is new and is being tested. On the whole it works well and as a safety valve it has proved valuable and effective. I really have no fault to find neither changes to suggest. It might well be extended to cover all employments of ten or more persons. Some advocate a permanent Board but I submit that the present arrangement suits our conditions better. Others claim that the finding of the Board should be final and binding upon the disputants. That would change the purport of the Act entirely and would be too drastic as a conciliatory measure. The Act is intended to prevent hasty lockouts and strikes. It gives time to cool off when angry words have passed or objectionable acts been done and the Board are enjoined to seek to reconcile, to bring together and to hear and persuade.

We can point a sinner to the cross but we cannot compel him to accept the Saviour.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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