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Thornton

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Standing the Test.

There has been some plain speaking in Quebec about the management of the National Railways, and the desirability of giving representation to that province on the board of directors.

There seems to be no doubt that the name in the mind of many of the leaders of that province was Mr. Paradis, who no doubt possesses the qualifications necessary to acceptably serve on the board of directors. Against his taking the seat is the fact that he is the organizer of the Liberal party in Quebec, and he certainly makes a very efficient organizer if the showing of Liberals at Ottawa from his province is the proper measure by which to judge his abilities.

Sir Henry Thornton claims Mr. Paradis would have to relinquish his position as organizer for a political party before he would be considered eligible for appointment to the board of the National Railways. He also asked that he resign his position in the Quebec Legislature.

Undoubtedly Sir Henry was right in his contention. The premier has given his word that the new manager of the roads shall not in any way have political pressure brought to bear in the conduct of affairs on the National lines. It might be argued that Mr. Paradis could—and he might—view his duties in the National board as something quite separate and apart from his political activities. It is not well to try out such an experiment at this time, and in view of the sincere attempt that is being made to establish the management of the lines on an independent basis it is highly desirable to avoid even the appearance or suggestion of political favoritism. Were the tables reversed, and an attempt made to have a Conservative organizer on the board of the National lines, Liberals would protest vigorously, and they would be right in so doing.

One of the first things to be done is to establish in the minds of the people the fact that the King government means exactly what it says when it announces a policy of no interference and no politics on the National lines.

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