

May I take advantage of the presence of the Minister of Railways as a fellow guest this evening to put forward a suggestion which I deem worthy of consideration, as to how practical application might be given to some of the ^{principles set forth in the} observations I have been making this evening, in connection with the problem of the National Railways of our country, to which the Minister perhaps even more than most others is giving consideration at the present time. There is, at present, the suggestion that the affairs of the National Railways should be managed by a Board of Trustees, three in number, to be appointed by the government. This body will determine railway policy. In a way that may be only perpetuating what is most objectionable in the old so-called capitalistic system, for it is conceivable that the trustees so appointed will be selected exclusively from the ranks of those who belong to the class known as capitalist investors. What I would like to suggest as worthy of consideration, and for purposes of public discussion before the measure is again considered by parliament, is the wisdom of enlarging this board and making provision for representation on it, not of appointees of the government merely, but representatives as well of other classes who would be representative of the interests that contribute in largest measure to the successful operation of the railways. Labour is the first to suggest itself. There should certainly be on any board of railways, entrusted with the shaping and determination

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W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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