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Suggestion

Ottawa, October 18, 1914.

Mr. S. Thruston Ballard,
Commissioner, United States Commission on Industrial Relations,
Transportation Building,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Ballard:

It was with the greatest pleasure I received, on my return to Ottawa yesterday, your kind communication of the 6th instant.

It is most generous of you to refer in such cordial terms to my appointment as Director of the Investigation of Industrial Relations, undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation, and I most heartily reciprocate your hope that the work of the Rockefeller Foundation may be found a worthy supplement to the work of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations.

Let me say that I shall welcome any and every opportunity to co-operate with the United States Commission, where it may appear to each of us that a useful public service can be rendered in so doing. I purpose taking a few months to prepare a survey of the field before having the actual work of investigation commenced. When this survey is a little under way, I should like very much to feel that I might have the privilege of conferring with yourself and other members of the United States Commission, with a view to receiving your comments and suggestions concerning it. I am anxious to avoid duplicating, or appearing to duplicate, any work which has already been successfully carried on, and I am equally anxious to establish on a basis which will be practically permanent, any useful line of research, the development of which gives promise of real accomplishment.

Since the announcement of my appointment, I have received a very large number of letters all of them most cordial in their expressions. I hope you will not feel that I do an injustice to any if I say that none was more welcome than your own, or brought with it a keener sense of the significance and appreciation it merited.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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