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SIR HENRY THORNTON SPEAKS.

A correspondent called on Sir HENRY THORNTON, the new President and General Manager of the Canadian National Railways, in London the other day. Sir HENRY was pretty busy in the interval between farewell functions in his honor—the busiest man in London, the correspondent says—but he found time to discuss the Canadian National Railways for the benefit of newspaper readers in Canada.

A big, two-fisted man who has carried the battle of efficiency through two countries and is bringing it to this one, Sir HENRY THORNTON evidently scorns the secrecy with which so many successful men surround themselves and their plans and methods. With emphatic gesture he freely told the correspondent what had to be done with the Canadian National Railways. He is going to hammer the railways owned by the country into one physical system; he is going to select suitable and competent officers—assuming, that officers of the National Railways are competent and efficient until they are found otherwise; he is going to undertake the task of overcoming the financial deficit; and he is going to guide the conduct of the railways with a view to the development of the country.

But, on reading it over again, perhaps after all we may dismiss any lurking fear that Sir HENRY will betray himself by too much frankness. Perhaps he is one of those business psychologists who tell the people what they want to hear—holding that what the people want to hear is what they already know—and keeping the rest to themselves. For, there will be no dissent from Sir HENRY's vigorous pronouncement as to what should be done for the National Railways. The public will not contradict him. More likely it will esteem him a wise man for confirming its views.

And neither will it detract from the reputation with which Sir HENRY comes to us that he endorses the principle that there should be no political influence or interference in the management of the railways. He says that the Prime Minister has made it clear that this principle must be sustained, and adds: "I should not have looked at the proposition if not sure that both the Government and the people wanted this." That is gratifying. It is to be hoped that there will be no weakening.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and soon we shall have a chance of seeing the new president in the flesh and at work. We all wish him well, for his success will be ours.

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