

001464

*London Free Press,
Thurs. Oct. 5/22*

The New Railway Board

Sir Henry Worth Thornton, K. B., general manager of the Great Eastern Railway, of England, since 1914 and before that date one of the heads of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has been named president of the Canadian National Railways. His appointment will be received with general satisfaction by the Canadian public. There has been unrest over the long delay on the part of the King Government in creating the new board and fear that the recognized opponents of public ownership in the Cabinet were having their way. Sir Henry is a railroad man of ability and standing, with experience on two continents and with the best railway systems of the United States and Great Britain. If he is given a free hand as is promised and there is no political interference he should in time make the Canadian National a paying system. Under D. B. Hanna during the past two years the financial position of the system has been gradually improving. There is no reason, with efficient service and co-ordination of the various public-owned lines, why the Government line should not in time be an asset to the country instead of the terrible burden at present.

Sir Henry Thornton is an American by birth, coming from Indiana, where he was born in 1871. His whole railroad training has been with the great Pennsylvania system, starting with that road in 1894. It was in 1914, the year of the outbreak of the war, he went to England as head of the most important English system. During the war he became assistant director-general of movements and railroads, being given the title of general, and at the close of hostilities was knighted for his services.

As a believer in public ownership, The Free Press is pleased to see as able and efficient a railroad man as Sir Henry Thornton placed at the head of the National system. The board which is supporting him hardly measures up to the promise of Hon. W. C. Kennedy to Parliament that the Government would name a board consisting of "men of wide practical experience and training and possessed of expert knowledge in the various departments of railway activity." For instance, John H. Sinclair, the representative of the Maritime Provinces, is about as bitter a partisan as ever sat in the House of Commons. His only qualification for the position is his service to the Liberal party.

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 135)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA