

Before

His Excellency the Governor-in-Council

In the appeal of the Winnipeg Board of Trade (Shippers' Section) from the decision of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada on the application of Canadian Railway Companies for a recommendation to the Governor-in-Council under the War Measures Act for a general advance in freight and passenger rates. (B. R. C. File 27,840).

The Winnipeg Board of Trade (Shippers' Section) acknowledges the receipt of arguments from the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Canadian Northern Railway Company.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is chiefly concerned in the appeal, and we realize the necessity of giving first consideration to its factum. The contentions advanced there with reference to general questions are supported by counsel for the other companies in their memoranda, so that repetition may be avoided in measure by dealing in detail with only one.

The railway companies apparently hold fast to the belief that this appeal has to do with matters of accounting only; that figures constitute the principal evidence; and that questions of policy are not to be included in the appeal. That belief is the exact opposite of our own. We think the opportunity to approach the Governor-in-Council includes the privilege of discussing the whole railway situation with a view to advocating the remedy that commends itself to us as being most suitable at the present time. Our opinion is strengthened by the knowledge that the Right Honorable the Prime Minister has indicated to us that course by his attitude at the hearing in Ottawa. As representatives of the public, we feel that we should have plenty of scope to discuss transportation issues. The people provide the railway companies with all the revenue that is secured through tolls, and their interest in the matter is not confined to the mere act of paying those tolls. They have reason to inquire why they should pay them. If additional charges are to be levied, they have the right to take any step that will protect their legitimate interests.