

accomplished by the Conservative party. In giving the contract to a group of men who made good, it is no idle boast to say that Canada has the best and most ably managed railway system in the world. I have always been an advocate of the C. P. R. I have had business relations with the Company ever since it started to do business and have paid the Company for passenger fares, freight and land purchased over one hundred thousand dollars. As Reeve of Rockwood I headed a delegation from the Municipalities of Gimli and Rockwood asking for an extension of the Stonewall branch to Gimli and the data we furnished the Company resulted in the extension being constructed.

I also used my newspaper along the same lines and I can assure you that the Company made many sacrifices in giving special rates for carrying out frozen grain and bringing in seed wheat free for the farmers on the Prairies. The C.P.R. is the only colonization railway that we have ever had in Canada and I consider that President Beatty is the greatest living Railway Manager. The best solution for the present railway problem is to amalgamate the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. under one management, issue new shares and settle the question of equalization of freight rates throughout the Dominion, secure Government control of freight rates, abolish the Railway Commission and place the full control under the Railway Department of the Government. As far as the exercise of authority now vested in the Railway Commission is concerned, Canada would in this way be relieved of the burden placed upon it by the Liberal Government in constructing a third transcontinental railway before it was needed. I hope to see this finally settled as I believe it will go a long way in restoring prosperity to Canada.

There is a pleasant side to my political activities. In all my three contests in Rockwood, Lisgar and Kindersley I was up against huge Liberal majorities but I had the satisfaction of seeing the whole three constituencies elect Conservatives in the general election which followed four or five years later.

In my municipal elections in Rockwood I was elected eight times in succession and I was the first president of the Municipal Officers Association of Manitoba. In 1891 when, by a political vote in the council, the Seed Grain By-law was defeated I went to Winnipeg with Mr. Rutherford and arranged for the farmers to get seed grain, and we supplied seed to every farmer who needed it and the amount borrowed was over thirty-seven thousand dollars. Every man who got seed grain paid for it. In the next election which followed the six councillors elected were all Conservatives and the four Liberals who voted against the Seed Grain By-law were defeated and I never had any more trouble over politics in the council. I merely relate this incident to show you what I was up against but I pulled through and I am still going strong although I will be seventy-seven years of age on the 2nd of March next.

I would like you to tell Sir R. P. Roblin that I send him my kindest regards and if he can find it convenient to write me a few lines I will appreciate it very much. I like to get letters although I cannot write them. I still am able to read as I learned the Moon system for the blind and I have now read about forty volumes on various subjects. I have a radio and hear all the political speeches, sermons and lectures and current events. The newspapers also broadcast every day giving the latest world news.

In conclusion, dear friend, there is one favour I would like you to do for me. When you go to Ottawa I would like the Conservative Members of the House of Commons to either write