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FRANK B. SMITH, EDMONTON, ALTA.

December 7, 1909.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Nov. 18 received on my return from a tour of inspection and beg to make a few remarks on the questions you ask.

I have had quite a varied experience in the matter of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act and would like to say that as far as the law now stands, I consider in some points it is incomplete.

A point that I had lately in hand was where the employees quit work in sympathy with five men who were discharged. I applied for a Conciliation Board to investigate the matter and in the meantime reinstated the men pending the decision of the Board. As far as I could possibly see, I complied with all the sections of the Act in making the application but it has been returned to me three times from Ottawa and even yet I cannot see where I am wrong. They base their argument on Section 56 which is faulty in so far that it does not seem to give the employer liberty to act as I did.

There may be other points that might be amended to the better satisfaction of all but a well appointed commission on this subject would help out all parties.

With regard to its extension to apply to all employments, I do not see any reason why it should not as, otherwise, it is discrimination on certain classes of labor which I understand is considered illegal in any State of the Union but probably like our Workmen's Compensation Act in this Province and also in B. C. they can discriminate on any class of labor.

I would esteem it a favor if you would let me have the results of your commission if such you have appointed to investigate this matter.

Thanking you in advance for the same.

Yours very truly,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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