

6-7 GEORGE V, A. 1916

CENTRAL CHAMBERS, OTTAWA, Canada, April 11, 1916.

CLARENCE JAMESON, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont.

Rates on Fish—Canadian Express Co., Dominion Express Co.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to your letter of the 8th April, I wrote to you yesterday stating that I had telegraphed to the companies the substance of your letter.

The officers of the two companies, Mr. John Pullen, President of the Canadian Express Company, and Mr. W. S. Stout, President and General Manager of the Dominion Express Company, are in town to-day, and they desire me to say that they have only very recently had the opportunity of reading the evidence of Mr. J. L. Payne with regard to the financial statements made by the companies to himself, as Comptroller of Statistics.

The express companies consider the evidence of Mr. Payne inaccurate both in his statements of facts and in the conclusions which he has drawn in his evidence, and that the evidence is misleading and may convey a wrong impression to the committee with reference to the affairs and business management of these companies.

They are therefore desirous of having the opportunity of presenting to the committee certain evidence upon the subject, and therefore respectfully ask you if it would be possible to have an early meeting of the committee called, in order that they may be heard.

I am sending this letter out to the House of Commons by messenger.

These gentlemen would like to have an interview with you either this afternoon or evening, if you can make it convenient.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

F. H. CHRYSLER.

Memorandum, presented on behalf of the Canadian Express Company, and the Dominion Express Company, in regard to certain evidence, as to the returns made by the Canadian Express Company, and the Dominion Express Company, given before the Committee respecting the "Discrepancy in the Prices of Fish," by Mr. J. L. Payne, Comptroller of Statistics.

Mr. Payne gave evidence on two occasions.

The first on the 20th of March, is reported at page 153, and following pages.

The following are quotations:—

(Page 154)—

"The operating expenses of these companies were \$4,451,227.91, and the express privileges were a little more than that, \$4,553,861.43. Still with these two deductions, one of which is almost entirely arbitrary, the express operating expenses you can understand are definite, depending upon the cost of operation—but the express privileges are purely an arbitrary amount agreed upon between the express company and the railway, largely a domestic matter."

"Q. That is about 50 per cent of the gross earnings?—A. Somewhere about 46 per cent in that year. I have calculated it, and I think it is 46 or 47 per cent, but it keeps going up"—

(Page 154)—

"Q. They are about the same?—A. About the same; they have all apparently increased, although I think there has been a larger rise in the Dominion Express Company, which has shown the greatest shrinkage in net results. That is the average of all companies. I say with the utmost frankness it is absolutely startling."

Mr. CHRYSLER, K.C.