

A. We expect that it should be but little in excess of the eastern rates on account of our dry climate, small snow fall and lessened cost of maintaining the road-bed, which I believe to be much below that in the east. The rate of wages I believe to be a little in excess of the east, but take it on an average and I doubt that the cost of operating in the west is greater than in the east.

Q. Are you including coal in this statement?

A. Yes, because coal is got at several points on the line commencing at Port Arthur and extending as far as Canmore and Lethbridge.

Q. Isn't there a long distance between these points?

A. Yes, between Lethbridge and Port Arthur, but after all the cost of fuel is only one item and I think very largely balanced by the lower cost and maintenance of the road-bed.

Q. If this comparison of local rates were carried over a distance of a thousand miles, have you any idea what the result would be?

A. No; you spoke of that this morning in connection with apples. If you will consider the case of apples; we gave a comparison with Windsor to Montreal, the longest haul we can find in the eastern provinces, 558 miles, and the same thing is true of these tables. After they go a certain distance they must be assumed to be through rates; again there is in many instances no rate quoted from Montreal, for instance, to any further point than Windsor. There is no rate quoted to a point on North Bay that we could reasonably compare with.

EXHIBIT K.—Comparative statement of rates on eggs, butter, cheese and poultry.

This will be found to be local, and I want to deal particularly with it because it has been very much the fashion for merchants, railway authorities and even up to Ministers of the Crown to advise people to go in for mixed farming; and I