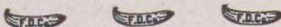




of the United States mails, and when the mail service is so used the time of mailing by the carrier shall be deemed to be the time of presentation of the bills. In case of dispute as to the time of mailing the postmark shall be accepted as showing such time.

"4 Sundays and legal holidays, other than Saturday half holidays, may be excluded from the computation of the period of credit.

"5 The mailing by the shipper of valid checks, drafts, or money orders which are satisfactory to the carrier in payment of the tariff charges, within the period of credit prescribed above, may be deemed to be payment of the tariff charges within the period of ninety-six hours of credit. In case of dispute as to the time of mailing the postmark shall be accepted as showing such time."



## Refrigerator Car Supply

One of the sections of the Transportation Act 1920 provided for a revolving fund to be used for loans to carriers at the discretion of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commission on June 7 issued a circular fixing an appropriation of \$75,000,000 to be loaned to carriers to aid in the acquisition of freight cars and \$50,000,000 for locomotives.

The Commission is of the opinion that it would be both desirable and practicable for the carriers to devise a plan for the formation of an equipment corporation or corporations, particularly in the case of refrigerator equipment, and will give preferred consideration to applications for loans to or for the purpose of such a corporation.

The Commission also states that of the \$75,000,000 apportioned for freight cars it is desirable that 20,000 new refrigerator cars be built promptly and allotments will be made first to those carriers who offer the largest proportional contributions to meet the advances of the Government, although this does not preclude the possibility of making loans to carriers who may not be able to advance proportionately as much as other carriers but whose equipment urgently needs expansion.

The time for filing applications and amendments in the first general plan

of distribution was extended to June 19, 1920, and action is being taken by various interests to induce the carriers who need additions to their equipment to make suitable application. Up to the present time it is understood the following orders have been placed or are in contemplation:

PFE. ....	4,000	refrigerators
Santa Fe .....	2,500	"
I. C. ....	1,000	"
B. & O. ....	400	"
N. N. C. ....	250	"
Fruit Growers		
Express Co. ....	9,000	"

This indicates that the car builders will be busy for some time as there will also be a number of box cars and other equipment built, but the crying need is for more refrigerators.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the American Railroad Association has recommended an increase in mileage rates to be paid owners of private cars, said increase to be confined to standard refrigerator cars under MCB classification symbol "RS," which means a car with body, doors and hatch plugs, equipped with insulation, with ice tanks and either with or without ventilating devices. The recommendation is that the new rate be two cents per mile, effective July 1, 1920. Whether or not the Commission will approve the advance is not known but should it do so it will greatly stimulate the building of private cars.