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lish joint through rates on express and freight traffic which shall be less than the sum of their locals.' "The Commission in concluding used the words, 'So we prefer for the present at least to cut some reasonable percentage off the sum of the locals.'"

Q. Has that been carried out?

A. They are working on that now.

Q. It has not been carried out?

A. Not in full, it is not completed. It is a difficult job requiring a lot of work, but the companies have to file those tariffs with the board and the work is being carried on at the present time. Complaints are receiving attention, I believe, in turn.

Q. You will remember that case of excessive rates given by the fruit growers at Clarkson.

'A specific case of excessive rates was given by the fruit growers at Clarkson who stated that at one time their fruit rate was 25 cents per hundred pounds. This was raised to 30 cents, despite an enormous increase in the traffic and also that both loading and unloading are done by the fruit growers and commission merchants.'

A. I think that Clarkson matter was dealt with by the late Judge Mabce in his judgment.

Q. Yes, the Chairman said in his judgment:

"It would seem that a charge of \$90.00 (per car) for this 16 mile haul with no pick-up or delivery expenses is little else than extortion.' Despite this statement the Clarkson rate is still 30 cents, and at the beginning of the season a year ago was raised to 35 cents. It was withdrawn, however, on complaint of the fruit growers."

A. I do not recall the facts in connection with that.

Q. In his report on the hearing the Chairman used the following words:

'Now everyone must know that the safe and quick transport of fruit is surrounded with difficulty, and in the course of every season there will necessarily be many little matters arising that cannot help but cause friction, and while upon the whole it is apparent that the express companies are yearly improving their service, yet one cannot help concluding that there are many things connected with this traffic that yet remain to be remedied, in the interest of all concerned.'

'At the time of the hearing, the Chairman suggested that we hold a conference with the express officials to see if some satisfactory understanding could not be arrived at for the settlement of many of the conditions that were complained of. Such a meeting was held at Hamilton, but practically nothing was accomplished as the officials of the Canadian Express Company practically denied that there was any cause for complaint among the fruit growers.'

Surely when the express companies made such a definite and distinct statement as that, if the Commission took any action in the matter at all they would investigate these complaints.

A. May I ask what you are reading from?

Q. I am reading from a statement made by the Secretary Treasurer of the Fruit Growers, Mr. P. W. Hodgetts. He has quoted statements made by the Chairmen of the Railway Commission, Judge Maybee; I suppose it was at that time, between the year 1905 and the present time.

A. Yes.

Q. This letter is dated March 19th, 1913.

A. To whom is it addressed?