

tion. You will see from the character of the goods to which the rule applies, that the object of the railway companies is to relieve themselves of liability in case of the goods being broken, pilfered, or otherwise destroyed.

The effect of the railway companies enforcing this rule will be great confusion and dissatisfaction throughout the country (and the longer it remains the worse affairs will become), and it would, therefore, seem important that immediate action should be taken to have it rescinded, in which I think it will be necessary for us to have your co-operation.

Hoping that you will kindly give the matter your earliest and best attention, and awaiting your reply,

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed)

EDGAR A. WILLS,

*Secretary.*

Office of the Minister of Railways and Canals,

OTTAWA, 9th April, 1900.

DEAR MR. WILLS,—Your letter of the 5th instant is before me, having reference to the Freight Classification, and the point which you raise therein will be promptly considered.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW G. BLAIR.

EDGAR A. WILLS, ESQ.,

Secretary, Board of Trade, Toronto.

TORONTO, April 19th, 1900.

HON. A. G. BLAIR,

Minister of Railways & Canals,

Parliament Buildings,

Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—On the 5th inst. I wrote you a letter, under instructions from the Freight Rates Committee of the Board of Trade, complaining of a rule adopted by the Canadian Joint Freight Association, under which the railways have recently been charging 50% additional for the carriage of goods more or less subject to being broken, pilfered or otherwise damaged, unless shipped at "OWNER'S RISK." It was then pointed out how irritating this clause was to the people throughout the country, and the request was made that the matter should receive your earliest possible attention. The rule is apparently being continued by the Railway Companies, and the effect can only be most exasperating.

The only attention, however, that this communication has so far received is a formal acknowledgment from yourself when received, and a similar acknowledgment received from your Secretary a week ago. This matter is of the utmost importance to the whole country, and demands prompt attention, and I am instructed by the Committee to again draw your attention to the character of the communication which has been forwarded to you, and to request that you should give the matter the earliest possible attention. We naturally look to the Government of the country for protection from such outrageous treatment by these corporations, and if we cannot get protection through the medium which is obviously the only reasonable one to appeal to first, we will have to see what public discussion will do to arouse a proper sense in the community of the outrage that is being perpetrated, in the hope that we may in this way obtain relief.

As particularly requested in my former letter, we would like to know on what authority this rule is based. There is apparently nothing in the