

APPENDIX No. 6

Q. I want to understand if you mean by keeping a sufficient quantity of lumber at a reasonable price that you did not also have in mind keeping up the price as well as the quantity of lumber?—A. Well, I do not know that I follow that.

Q. Do you mean to say you do not know, but in your mind, you believe that they agree with you, as to what the objects of the association were in regard to this distribution, that there would be always enough lumber at each point to supply the demand. You also have in mind that there would not be too much there so that there will not be a slump in prices?—A. No, I do not think so.

Q. You think not?—A. As long as there is sufficient to meet the requirements.

By Mr. Crocket :

Q. As president of the association was not one of the objects not only to limit the sale to retail dealers, but to limit them to members of the association?—A. Originally up to a certain point.

By Mr. Herron :

Q. Up to what point, Mr. Sprague, what date?—A. When the honorary members all withdrew.

By Mr. Lancaster :

Q. Here is a letter here addressed to yourself that I will ask you about, I will not ask you about other letters, but here is a letter addressed to yourself in February, 1906, one or two months after all these fellows withdrew when you think there was a great change?—A. Yes.

Q. You seem to have thought yourself that it did not make any change, that you were still entitled to some protection in that way as you would have been when these men were honorary members, because this letter is written to you and quotes what the man understood to be your complaints, some one, I presume, sent it to him. The letter is dated February 19, 1906, and is signed by the Export Lumber and Shingle Co., Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

‘ We beg to state that we are in receipt from Mr. Thomas Kirkpatrick of a letter from yourself to him in regard to the Export Lumber and Shingle Company, and its connection with the Western Retail Lumbermen’s Association. We note that the substance of your letter is,—unless we join the above-mentioned association it will be impossible for you to place any more of your valued orders with us. We beg to state that this is a great surprise to us for this reason, that all the manufacturers and the shippers from the Coast of British Columbia withdrew from membership in your association at the beginning of last year, and since that time, so far as we can learn, no manufacturer or shipper from this Coast has belonged to the Western Retail Lumbermen’s Association. This being the case, we cannot for one moment understand why you should single us out as a firm that must join the association before we can be favoured with your trade, and we suppose, as you are president of the Western Dealers Association, it would mean that we would be shut off from the trade of other members of your body. This looks to us something approaching what is called a boycott. We may say that in a list of members received from Mr. Cockburn, dated August 30, 1905, our name was down on the list as being in “harmony” with the association. We have not been favoured since last August with a revised list, and if we are out of harmony at the present time we do not know what the cause is, unless it be a couple of shipments which we made last year, and which it may be pertinent for us to advise you of.’

And then he tells you about these two shipments, one of which was a car of shingles to Scott and Balkwell, of Gilbert Plains, near Dauphin, and the other was a car of lumber to the Western Manufacturing Company, of Regina. He then goes on:

‘ We may add in this connection that we know that the Pacific Coast Lumber Company did business with the Western Manufacturing Company, of Regina shortly after we