

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

"ISAAC COCKBURN, Esq.,
"Winnipeg, Man.

"SASKATOON, February 24, 1903.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 4th inst., my absence at the coast prevented my sending you an earlier reply. My present stock is three cars shingles, 400 M. feet of lumber, and stock of sash, doors, &c.

"I have just returned from the West where I have been for the purpose of seeing for myself who have the material. Firms were accepting orders and promising prompt shipment, and nothing was coming in. I am glad to say I have procured about three-quarters of a million feet. This, with my stock on hand, I am satisfied, even if mine were the only yard here, would be sufficient to supply the demand until Prince Albert mills were running. If Canadian Pacific Railway were only as prompt in delivering the cars as they are in urging us to place orders, it would be more satisfactory. I cannot help thinking that shippers, on account of heavy rates and long delays, in delivering to these outside points, prefer to ship to points on main line, especially where demand is in excess of supply.

"Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) A. L. BROWN."

"SASKATOON, March 19, 1903.

"DEAR SIR,—I have been told to-day by a traveller that we are reported to be starving for lumber up here. This to a certain extent is true. There is no person that I know of who cannot get what he wants. But unless the railway company will bring material in, we shall certainly run out. I think it about time that complaint was made as to the serious condition of matters here. All the early part of the winter, the Canadian Pacific Railway were saying and urging us to buy material. We have bought and it is being and has been shipped. Yet, a car coming in here is an exception. Merchants are suffering for want of groceries. Coal has been out until yesterday for three weeks. I am suffering loss by firms refusing to allow me discounts as goods are not paid for within the thirty days, yet, if I pay for them it is likely as not that I may not receive them for another thirty days, and yet, I suppose if there is any shortage the blame will be laid on us.

"I saw myself three weeks ago, cars in Regina yard for me that had been shipped some time, probably they are there yet. They certainly are not here. Can you do anything at your end? I have written to headquarters myself, but seems to do no good.

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) A. L. BROWN."

"SASKATOON, March 20, 1903.

"DEAR SIR,—I wrote you yesterday, with regard to the disgraceful service we are getting in regard to delivery of cars of lumber or anything else. I wrote to Winnipeg some time ago, and have written again to-day to the general superintendent.

"Would this matter of delay be within your province after all the fuss they raised about our getting in a supply of material. From present indications we are in a hopeless muddle. What it will be later on is hard to say.

"We had a coal famine for three weeks, only relieved yesterday. Sugar, and such like articles have been an almost unknown quantity for weeks. I am told there are close to 150 cars at Regina awaiting to come up along this road, and the number increasing all the time.

"I thought it as well to advise you of this matter in time, so that if any shortage of lumber should occur, there is no blame to be attached to us here. The loss to me is serious. I am losing cash discounts. Money was paid out weeks ago on cars prepaid to Regina, and I have not the lumber yet.

"Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) A. L. BROWN."