

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton).—Yes, but there is no reason for this gentleman telling us that the apples are being weighed. We ship carloads and carloads to the West from sidings where there is no possibility of weighing the apples, and they must have some standard of weight for the barrels in Nova Scotia.

A. I make this statement, sir, that the C.P.R. have something like 70 track scales, and the Grand Trunk have something like 53 or 55 track scales; I also know that it is the practice, and the companies have given positive instructions to their men, to weigh carload traffic. I can quite understand that if there is congestion in the yard where the track scale is some cars may go through without weighing.

Q. I have shipped this year from Kingscourt and Wanstead Sidings in the County of Lambton, and there was no such thing as weighing a single barrel at those points.

A. No, they have no track scales there, but the rule would be to weigh them at the first track scale point. For example, if those apples were going to Montreal or St. John they would go through London, and there is a track scale at London where they would be weighed.

Q. And if they went West through the States where would they be weighed?

A. At Sarnia or Windsor, wherever they crossed the frontier.

Q. Have they track scales at Sarnia?

A. At Sarnia and at Windsor.

Q. And they would be weighed there?

A. That is if the instructions were carried out. I am quoting now from the rules, and the directions, as I remember them, and so far as I know from what has come before the Board from time to time, the companies are very particular about weighing.

*By Mr. Wright:*

Q. If that 165 pounds is supposed to be the maximum weight there is no object in a railway company weighing the barrels, or taking any trouble to weigh them, because they know they would not get any more than that, and if they did weigh them they might probably turn out to be less than 125 pounds, so that there is no object in the railway company weighing them?

A. This estimated weight of 165 pounds was in force for such a number of years that I can understand that, perhaps the agents at the track scale stations, who have lots of other shipments to weigh, and other duties to attend to, if they come to a lot of apples may think, "We will let these go through without weighing, they will get at 165 pounds anyway."

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, I think that is the real condition.

*By Mr. Best:*

Q. Where does the shipper get the weight of the carload?

A. If the apples were loaded at a station having no track scales the agent would probably bill them at the tariff minimum of 24,000 pounds, and then they would be weighed at an intermediate track scale station. If, upon weighing, the carload was found to weigh more than the 24,000 pounds the weight would be set up to the actual weight, and if less, it would remain at 24,000, which is the minimum, and that weight would go on the advice of the charges which is given to the consignee at the destination.

*By Mr. Steele:*

Q. Does the rate of freight on apples apply to Western Ontario?

A. These rates to the West?

Q. Yes?

A. Yes, they apply throughout Western Ontario.