

Mr. FISHER: The rates there must be lower than they are in my part of the country because the amount of rail haul in my part of the country has tended to fall away.

I should like to ask whether the Canadian National Railway Company or the government has approached any of these companies which hold licences in this area with a view to the amount of traffic that can be expected?

Mr. BALCER: We have received representations from many of these companies but we have not signed any contracts as yet.

Mr. FISHER: Have you received any undertaking in regard to the amount of traffic that will be generated? After all, 50,000 cords could probably be carried on two trains.

Mr. BALCER: My information is that these companies have given us some figures regarding the amount that can be expected to be shipped under present circumstances.

Mr. FISHER: I should like then to ask this question. I understand there is 85 million board feet per year of lumber cut in this region by 75 saw mill operators. At the present time is most of that lumber shipped to the Montreal market and, if so, is it shipped by water?

Mr. BALCER: The 85 million figure is the potential of the present mills. At the present time this is being shipped either by truck to Matane or by water for the Montreal market, and also for the north shore.

Mr. FISHER: I should like to ask your economist whether lumber shipped to the Montreal market in this way will compete with lumber shipped by water during the summer season?

Mr. SCOTT: Obviously you will have a lower rate if you have service by water, but in the majority of instances one does not have as continuous a schedule of service by water as can be attained by rail. The fact is that in the past there has been a substantial tonnage of lumber moved over the rails.

Mr. FISHER: I presume that lumber is brought in by truck to the railhead at Matane?

Mr. BALCER: That is right.

Mr. FISHER: You have said there is a substantial amount shipped that way. Could you give us an indication as to how much it is?

Mr. SCOTT: I would estimate it to be 50,000 tons.

Mr. FISHER: Is that per year?

Mr. SCOTT: Yes.

Mr. FISHER: In respect of the wood chips, is the market considered to be in Quebec city and Three Rivers?

Mr. ENGLISH: The market is at Three Rivers.

Mr. FISHER: Could you estimate the number of box cars which will be shipped in this regard during the next year or two?

Mr. BALCER: My information is that there will be something in the neighbourhood of 25,000 tons shipped.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you finished Mr. Fisher?

Mr. FISHER: No, I am not finished but I shall allow someone else to proceed now and return to the subject later.

Mr. PIGEON: Can the minister indicate whether the Gaspé Copper Mine Company will increase its production after the completion of this railroad? Has the minister received any information from this company in that regard?

Mr. SCOTT: I think the answer to that question is that several years ago the Gaspé copper company indicated extreme interest in the establishment of