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Ottawa, Ont. January 17th. 1923.

My dear Gromie:

I have your letter of the 8th. instant, and was particularly interested to read the editorial enclosed.

This editorial has the real heart to the question. For demanding last session that the Railway Commission have a free hand to make rates fair to all Canada I was denounced in the prairie provinces as opposed to lower freights. Mr. Crerar was especially unfair in this regard.

The discrimination against which British Columbia has waged a long battle had at least some show of justification in the extra carriage costs through a mountainous country. I know that there is a very strong argument against this justification, namely that the extra carriage costs are due not to unsurmountable conditions but to the fact that the Canadian Pacific chose a very difficult route when a route offering much better grades was available, namely, that subsequently taken by the C. N. R.

The point is though, that much heavier rates

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