

Statement of Grain handled off Prince Albert-Denholm line

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	1,946	1,587	2,206	2,287

Shellbrook to Big River—distance 56 miles

This line is through part open country suitable for mixed farming and partly through timber. The Prince Albert Lumber Company have logging operations tributary to this line and deliver cars loaded with logs at sidings on this branch which are then handled by the Canadian Northern to Prince Albert. At Big River, the terminus of this line, there is also a saw-mill, the product of which is shipped over this line.

Statement of Grain handled off above line

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	25	31	435	373

Statement of Logs handled off above line

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	2,473	2,076	1,767	1,144

Statement of Lumber handled from Big River

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	531	254	898	1,370

North Battleford to Turtleford—distance 56 miles

This line leaves the main line at North Battleford and runs through a good farming country all the way to Turtleford. The company have under construction a line extending from near Edmonton easterly and when completed will connect with this branch, giving the settlers on the north side of the Saskatchewan river transportation facilities. At present some of these settlers have upwards of 60 miles haul to reach the nearest railway which is the Canadian Northern main line. Under these conditions the settlers are confining their efforts to livestock which can be driven to market.

Statement of Grain handled off the Battleford-Turtleford line

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	642	406	1,497	1,100

Battleford Junction to Battleford—distance 8 miles

This branch was constructed to give the old town of Battleford connection with the main line. The principal traffic is shipments to and from the town of Battleford.

Statement of Grain handled off above line

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Number of cars..	39	36	65	58

Summary

Years	1913	1914	1915	1916
Total Cars ..	16,144	9,288	37,648	29,037
Bushels..	18,000,000	10,000,000	41,000,000	32,000,000

Mr. BIRD: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. HANNESSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like—

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Selkirk (Mr. Hannesson) has the floor.

Mr. BIRD: Mr. Chairman, I had the floor and gave way to the Minister of Railways.

The CHAIRMAN: It is quite true the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Bird) had the floor on that occasion, but about an hour ago the

hon. member for Selkirk sent me a note saying he would like to follow the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) and I promised to recognize him.

Mr. BIRD: Is it in order for an hon. member to pre-empt the floor of the House?

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member for Nelson wants the floor he has the right to it; he rose first. I leave it entirely to his judgment.

Mr. FORKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise—

Mr. CAHAN: I should like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member for Nelson established the precedent of pre-emption.

Mr. HANNESSON: Mr. Chairman, I might explain that I deferred rising in my place because the hon. Minister of Railways had intimated to me that he wished to speak next.

Mr. FORKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. I think the Chairman is perfectly straight and honest in his rulings, but I do think on this occasion he kept his head too close to the papers in front of him, for the simple reason that I have watched him time after time when members in this end of the chamber have risen first and have noticed that some other member to the Chairman's left has caught his eye.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. FORKE: I am not attributing anything unfavourable to the Chairman's conduct. I think he is perfectly honest—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. FORKE: —but it seems to me he should look along the chamber sometimes, when he would probably see other hon. members trying to catch his eye besides those to his left.

Mr. BIRD: Mr. Chairman, I did not understand that in committee it was customary to make arrangements as to the order in which members are to speak. It seems to me unfair when a member sits here throughout a debate that his chance to speak should be lost simply because another member, who may not have been in the House during the debate, has arranged with the Chairman and pre-empted his turn.

Mr. HANNESSON: I have been in my seat the whole afternoon.

Mr. BIRD: However, I am quite willing to give way to my hon. friend because I realize we are both fighting in the same cause. I simply protest against the procedure.