

6. It is not true, as stated by Mr. Miller, that we charged more than local rates on through freight, and made such arrangements. I never heard of the "facts" of which he complains, and could not, therefore, very well refute them;—if he will communicate them to me, however, I will gladly either refute or reject them.

I do not refer to Mr. Blanchard's remarks, (which, however, admit of a perfectly satisfactory explanation,) as they are foreign to the question in hand.

I have to say that all the so-called "facts" stated at these meetings were mere surmises, and were not supported by evidence to justify them as credible surmises even. The real facts are as follows:—Prior to the season of 1884–85 the rate for apples from our Station to London *via* Halifax was roundly \$1.25 per barrel. When the Furness Line came on the route, largely through my interest and representation, a reduction of the rate to \$1.00 per barrel was effected. It was at one time contemplated that we should take a uniform proportion—not of 25 cents, but of 20 cents per barrel from all our Stations. Had this arrangement been carried out it is obvious no injustice whatever would be done to the shipper, as he would have had to pay \$1.00 in any case, and it would be immaterial to him what the sub-division between the railway and the steamers might be. This arrangement was never acted on, however, and at no time, then or since, have we received more than tariff rates on apple shipments over the line—and I hereby undertake to refund the amount of overcharge that any shipper can show us to have received in excess of these rates. These are the facts,—and I think I have a right to request that as much publicity be given to this contradiction as was given to the original misrepresentation.

Coming now to deal with your communication, I must say I am at a loss to conceive why there should be such a continual—and I will add senseless—outcry about our rates. There is no mystery about them. They are not a "sealed book," but are publicly exhibited at every station, so that "whosoever runs may read." Nor do they require a special education to understand them,—the most elementary acquaintance with figures will enable any one to ascertain if he is being charged correctly. Moreover, our agents are always ready to furnish information on any point, in addition to which the Traffic Superintendent and myself are at all times accessible.