

*By Mr. Sinclair:*

Q. I think the facilities granted by the company are quite as important as the rate. What have the company done to improve their facilities? We were told the other day by certain dealers that small packages of fish in boxes with ice are thrown into a heated car, and by the time they arrive in Montreal the ice has all gone and the fish deteriorates accordingly. Has the company ever considered the importance of that phase of the business?—A. Oh, yes. But, of course, the Express Company is engaged in handling all sorts and all varieties of freight, packages of various kinds, some of it perishable, and some of it not; some perishable due to frost, and some perishable due to heat; and it would be almost an impossibility to design the kind of car that will adequately protect all kinds of property in which our messengers, who are entrusted with the custody of a lot of very valuable packages, and sometimes large sums of money, could also ride. You cannot expect a messenger to ride in a refrigerator car, for example, and you could not load fresh flowers and carry them in a refrigerator car.

Q. Could you have a cold room?—A. It may be possible to have a cold room in a car, but what would you do with your other express matter?

Q. Put it in the warm room.—A. There is not room enough in the warm room.

Q. How long is a car?—A. Sixty feet.

Q. Why could you not partition off a portion of it?—A. The rest of the car would not be large enough to take care of our business without having to overflow.

Q. You have too much business?—A. You want a refrigerator express car; that is what you want.

Q. You say they cannot take the overflow?—A. They would not need to.

Q. I am talking now of parcels, of small lots?—A. It may be a mechanical possibility to provide such a car, but on that point I would not venture to express an opinion because that would have to be given by the car builders. It might be possible to construct a car with one portion of it devoid of heating apparatus or steam pipes.

Q. The steamers are very careful to construct a hold for perishable products, where there are no heating pipes, and where it is comparatively cold?—A. I have no doubt it is quite possible, but it would not be practicable, because we would not have room to take care of our other express matter in the same car. That is the objection we would have.

*By Mr. Chisholm (Inverness):*

Q. If you could estimate the average amount of fish sent over your line, could you not apportion a car for fish?—A. Sometimes our cars are really filled up to the roof with ordinary express matter.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. When that occurs there would be no room for fish?—A. A separate car would have to be put on.

Q. That is the point Mr. Sinclair has been making. Would it not be reasonable to have a certain portion of the car set off for perishable goods, of which fish is one variety?—A. I think the railway companies would object to running a car and a half when one car would do. You have to take into consideration the returning movement. The car has to go back, it goes back empty. It does not take back fish.

Q. Supposing you had a car made up in this manner, with the refrigerator portion only half full?—A. You would have to put on a second car to take care of the express matter.

Q. And the same situation confronts you, the car has to be returned to?—A. There probably would not be an overflow from one car if there were no separate partition for the fish.

Q. When you have more than you can carry, part of the express matter must be held up and deferred until a future occasion?—A. There has been an overflow car pro-

MR. JOHN PULLEN.