

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

firm refused to sell to anybody outside of the Retail Lumbermen's Association. I asked Mr. Greenway to show me the letters in question, and he did so. Well, the letters do not contain any complaint at all. The complaint is by a dealer, a retail dealer, to the secretary of the association to the effect that we did sell to parties outside of the association.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is just a misunderstanding.

The WITNESS.—Well I will read the letter if you like.

Mr. SLOAN.—You may read it and you will have it on the records.

*By Mr. Lancaster:*

Q. Who is it from?—A. It is from W. M. Carment. It is written from Kamsack, Saskatchewan, which is a town about sixty miles west from my mills, at Grand View. It is dated 12th March, 1907, is addressed to Alan M. Stewart, secretary of the Retail Lumbermen's Association, Wininpeg, and reads in part as follows (reads):—

'DEAR SIR,—I am to-day in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant *re* my complaint as to Burrows and others selling lumber in this town to parties who are not dealers. I may say there have always been two lumber yards in this town, and had Burrows confined himself to selling to the other yard although they are not in the association, I would have made no complaint, although, according to the rules of the association, I would be justified in doing so, but the offence in this instance was particularly gross. Mr. Miles was not a dealer at all.'

'This car is the only car he has had and it was sold at prices that demoralized the trade.'

Now this is the complaint against me which was interpreted, I suppose, by cursory reading, into a charge that I refused to sell to any person outside of the association.

*By Mr. Lancaster:*

Q. What you mean to tell us is that you did sell?—A. Yes

*By Mr. Sloan:*

Q. Who is the writer of that letter?—A. W. M. Carment, and he complained of me for having sold the car of lumber to a man named Theodore Miles. Theodore Miles who lives in the town of Kamsack, who is not a dealer, but a consumer.

*By Mr. Lancaster:*

Q. He might have complained and you would not have done it?—A. Well, I sold the car to him myself personally. There are lots of matters in connection with my mill that I don't know of personally, but I know the circumstances in this case, because he came to me personally and complained he could not get lumber in the town, and I sold him a car at wholesale.

*By Mr. Sloan:*

Q. What explanation did he give for not being able to get lumber?—A. He said the yards did not keep the stock.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. This is a consumer you were selling to?—A. This is a consumer.

*By Mr. Lancaster:*

Q. Would you have sold that lumber if he could have got it in the town?—A. We would prefer not to. As a matter of business, we don't care to sell to outside parties.

*By Mr. Crocket:*

Q. Are you on the friendly list of the Retail Lumbermen's Association?—A. Well, I am a lumberman, and I think all the manufacturers are on the friendly list. I don't know whether I am on it or not.