

3-4 GEORGE V., A. 1913

Mr. HARDWELL.—I would like to say a word in reply to a point which was raised by Mr. Armstrong. The Board of Railway Commissioners cannot exceed their powers. The Board have no authority, no jurisdiction under the Railway Act, to deal with claims for losses and damage. We know, of course, that these losses are a great hardship to shippers.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton).—I have some further statements that I would like to have placed on record after Dr. Steele gets through.

The CHAIRMAN.—If Mr. Hardwell has finished all he desires to say in connection with the freight rates at competing points, I think we can proceed.

Mr. BEST.—We were led to believe by Mr. Johnson that the Western shipper got his apples shipped into the Western market at a much cheaper rate than the Eastern growers. What we want to know is whether the railways carrying apples from Washington to Lethbridge charge higher rates, or lower rates, than do the railways carrying apples from London to Winnipeg.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have got that fairly well cleared up.

Mr. HARDWELL.—Are there any further points upon which you want information?

By the Chairman:

Q. If there are any further rates you desire to submit to the Committee you may as well state them now.

A. I will quote a few of them.

By Mr. Wright:

Q. Could you not insert these rates in your evidence?

A. Yes.

By the Chairman:

Q. The whole difficulty, if you pursue Mr. Johnson's evidence, is one of two competing points—Ontario growers shipping to Calgary, and Western growers shipping to Winnipeg. I think Mr. Johnson said that the rate to Calgary was \$1.40 per barrel, and he goes on to point out that the difference between the two would be some 60 cents a barrel. I think you have fairly well cleared that matter up. Now, as to the rate for Oregon and British Columbia shippers to Winnipeg of 75 cents, whereas the rate from Ontario to Calgary is one dollar and some odd cents per hundred.

Mr. ROBB.—There is no discrimination between shipments from United States points and British Columbia points to Winnipeg?

The CHAIRMAN.—No.

Mr. ROBB.—The contention was made by the British Columbia Fruit Growers' representative before the Committee, that there was discrimination in favor of United States points.

The CHAIRMAN.—Not in freight rates.

Mr. ROBB.—I understood so.

Mr. HARDWELL.—The rates from British Columbia to Winnipeg, and other prairie points, are practically the same as from Oregon and Washington, but they get lower west of Moosejaw. For instance, from Okanagan points to Moosejaw, Winnipeg and intermediate points, the rate is 75 cents, the same as from Washington. But west of Moosejaw the British Columbia rate drops to 67 cents to Medicine Hat, and 58 cents to Lethbridge and Calgary, whereas the American rate is kept up to a minimum of 75 cents. So there is no discrimination against the British Columbia shipper. Where there is any difference at all the latter has the advantage.