

Q. Could you say, for that period, just as the companies which have appeared here, if your volume has been less considerable, your transactions in volume?—A. Less considerable.

Q. Could you tell us, like other companies have, in other respects their volume has been less considerable in previous years, their profit has been greater? Would you be in the same position?—A. I do not believe so.

Q. You do not believe that your profit for the present financial year is greater than that for the corresponding period last year?—A. I am sure it is not greater.

Q. You are sure of that?—A. Almost sure.

Q. And you are sure, however, that the volume has been less considerable?—A. Yes, it has been smaller.

Q. Now, Mr. Parent, I would like to refer you to the questionnaire on various other commodities, especially oranges.

In the first column, I find that for the months of November and December there is an increase in the profit margin equivalent to that of the other companies of Toronto and elsewhere who appeared before the committee?—A. Right.

Q. Would you tell us why on December 18 in particular, you could not make a profit of \$1.87 per crate of oranges and of \$1.62 on December 24. Could you explain that to the members of the committee?—A. It all depends on the size of the oranges. That is the difference and it is less on the 24th than on the 18th. We have different sizes of oranges which yield a greater profit than others. We had a carload corresponding exactly with the prevailing demand, and at that time we made a slightly higher profit.

Q. For the oranges size 288 mentioned here. Would you tell the members of the committee how it is that, from December 11 to December 18, you were unable to make a much greater profit?—A. Orders, as in the case of all the other companies who appeared here before I did, were much more considerable and we were getting close to the end of December when orders were much more considerable than at the other periods of the year. That is the period when we endeavour to supply country folks, our country customers, and we are faced with a very heavy demand at that time of the year.

Q. Would it have been possible, Mr. Parent, to take a smaller profit on oranges size 288 mentioned here?—A. It was very difficult because we did not have enough oranges for our customers and we had better offers than that; but we followed the other dealers' quotation and I dare believe that in many instances our price was lower.

Mr. THATCHER: Which months are you talking about?

Mr. MONET: The month of December 18 to 24.

*By Mr. Monet:*

Q. Am I to understand that sometimes, particularly last fall, you had to buy oranges from your competitors?—A. Oftentimes, in fact, I purchased some from our competitors. In January and even in December I paid more than I intended to, in buying from other competitors. And they themselves make their profits; those are not our carloads.

Q. In order to make this very clear, your position is slightly different from others. I understand that besides oranges which you could easily obtain, you had to purchase oranges from Montreal competitors in order to supply your customers?—A. Right.

Q. Which explains, as you say, how it is that in January, for instance you had to pay up to \$5.75, \$5.50 and \$5.65 for oranges which you had sold?—A. But I even paid more than that; it is an "average".