

3-4 GEORGE V., A. 1913

Northern is backed up all the way to Billings in Montana, that is it was settled as a blanket rate, all the way from Billings to Fargo, a distance of 640 miles at 75 cents, then it drops a cent on the way back to Helena and Butte. Now the same practice is adopted by these American companies in making a rate into Canada; they make a 75 cent rate to Winnipeg, and carry that rate back even farther than in their own country, to Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge, a blanket rate of 75 cents. Now I think this is distinctly in favour of the Ontario shipper. There are only two ways of getting over that so that there will be a difference between the rate to Medicine Hat and Winnipeg, we will say; the one is to advance the Winnipeg rate to a point higher than the Red River basis, to which Winnipeg would certainly most strenuously object, and the other is to reduce the rates west of Winnipeg, and every cent you take off that rate you add a like amount to the competition that the Ontario man has to meet.

*By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):*

Q. Yes, but by what you are saying the American roads are hauling goods for nothing in Canada.

A. In what way?

Q. Your rate is 75 cents from Calgary to Winnipeg.

A. No, no, apples are not shipped from Calgary to Winnipeg.

Q. Yes, but apples come from Washington, over the mountainous road, and coming by way, as I understand it, of British Columbia ports of entry. They come in and they are able to distribute them in Winnipeg for a rate that is practically the same as what you charge from Calgary to Winnipeg?

A. I do not know what the rate is from Calgary, but I do not know that apples are shipped from Calgary. What I meant to say was that the rate from Yakima and Walla Walla, and those points in Washington to Medicine Hat and Lethbridge (they do not go through Calgary) is the same as to Winnipeg, so that Mr. Johnson is wrong in saying they are carrying apples free from Lethbridge and Medicine Hat to Winnipeg.

Q. Yes, they carry them free, you admit that.

A. No, I do not admit that they carry them free. It is a blanket rate which is made in the United States and the American companies have so made their rates that the shipper of fruit who ships only to Medicine Hat or Lethbridge has to pay the same rate as the man who ships to Winnipeg.

Q. Is that not against the interests of the Eastern grower?

A. I do not so see it, because, following out the American practice, if the rate were scaled down as the distance decreases, going West, by every cent you scale it down you add one cent to the competition which the Ontario man has to meet, I think that is clear.

Q. You are speaking from the standpoint of shipping West, while I am speaking from the standpoint of shipping East.

A. It is the same from British Columbia, 75 cents from Okanagan points, although the British Columbia shipper is favoured a little more than the American, because his rates are not carried back so far, and he gets some little privilege there. But if any one has a complaint it seems to me it is the British Columbia man and not the Ontario man.

*By Mr. Douglas;*

Q. What is your rate from Kelowna to Edmonton?

A. 67 cents.

Q. As against 75 cents?

A. Against what?

Q. The American shipping rate of 75 cents?