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Thursday were suggested. The service was put into operation and it was not taken advantage of because the anticipated quantities did not offer.

Q. Then this fast freight train carries other commodities as well as fish?—A. Yes, the fish occupies only a car. You understand the Railway Department placed a refrigerator car at the disposal of shippers of fish for their exclusive use, and arranged to carry fish on certain days each week.

Q. Does a freight train leave Montreal every day for Eastern points?—Leave Mulgrave, you mean?

Q. Is there a fast freight service from Montreal to Mulgrave as well as from Mulgrave to Montreal?—A. I cannot speak definitely as to that. I think there is a daily fast freight service.

Q. I understand there is to be daily service in the Eastern part of Canada, that is a fast freight train leaving every day, which only carries fish three times in the week, but I think we have also a daily fast freight leaving Mulgrave and Halifax, joining at Truro and from thence proceeding to Montreal?—A. The refrigerator car which is placed at the service of the shippers of fish is available three days in the week. Of course you can ship on any day in the week, but on the fast freight service the Naval Branch of the Department arranged to guarantee the minimum earning charged on that car on certain days in the week, making a service which dealers could take advantage of. If they did not have sufficient quantities to make up the minimum carload, the Department took care of it and gave them the facilities to ship their fish under the best possible conditions, that is under refrigerator service, on certain days which they could depend on, no matter what quantity was offering. It was the impression that the Naval Service Branch did improve the service.

Q. And you are asking for more days, you say?—A. No, we are not. The difficulty we found, and one which I think Mr. Found is aware of, is that we could not make use of the service which was given for three days in the week. There was not sufficient demand for the fish to warrant shipping on all these days; we could supply the market without using the service these three days.

Q. What are the best days of the week for selling fish in Montreal?—A. Friday is the retailers day. We sell every day, but the big days for the wholesaler are undoubtedly Wednesday and Thursday.

Q. Those are the days when you have the best freight rates?—A. No, we must have the best freight rates before those days in order to get delivery, put that fresh fish into our coolers and re-pack and take care of it. The fish cannot be taken in exactly the same condition in which it is shipped. It cannot remain in that shape but must be taken and re-packed.

*By Mr. Copp:*

Q. The fish must be shipped from Mulgrave on Saturday of the week before?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Sinclair:*

Q. What is the cost per hundred pounds of fish from Mulgrave to Montreal on the fast freight train?—A. As near as I can judge the freight charges amount to three-fourths of a cent.

Q. Per pound?—A. The railway freight rate is based on the gross rate, and the rate is 38 cents, which does not include the cartage charge at delivery point. The railway companies take the gross weight of a 300 pound case of fresh fish, with the ice and the package containing it, which would weigh about 450 or 500 pounds gross, and we must pay the charges on the gross weight. That is why I say that where the rate might only be from 32 to 48 cents, the actual cost of bringing that fish in is nearly three-fourths of a cent per pound.

Q. Because you have to pay for the package and the ice?—A. Yes.

D. J. BYRNE.