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HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 105.

TUESDAY, April 1st, 1913.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 o'clock, a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Sexsmith, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, the time for commencing our meeting has arrived. We have with us this morning Mr. James Hardwell, Chief Traffic Expert, Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada, who has been called to speak to us upon freight rates in connection with the fruit industry.

I will now call upon Mr. Hardwell to address you.

Mr. HARDWELL.—I am not acquainted with your procedure, Mr. Chairman, and therefore do not know whether I am to answer questions or simply state what I know with respect to the evidence on freight rates already given here as I read it some two or three weeks ago when I was first summoned.

The CHAIRMAN.—Please proceed with your statement and if members of the Committee desire to ask you some questions, they can do so.

Mr. HARDWELL.—There are one or two outstanding matters that are fresh in my memory and that seem to have a rather bad appearance from the point of view of the railway companies. One was a statement by Mr. Johnson, President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, to the effect that a higher rate to the Northwest on apples was paid by the growers from his district than was paid by the growers in Nova Scotia. On the face of it that statement seems rather absurd. The particular case cited by Mr. Johnson was the rate to Edmonton. His words as I have them here are:

“Nova Scotia gets a rate of one cent per hundred pounds less to Edmonton than Ontario people get for seven hundred miles farther.”

That statement is altogether wrong. Mr. Johnson said his Association had a Traffic Adviser. If so, I am rather surprised at his making such a statement. As a matter of fact the rates from the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, run anywhere from twenty to thirty cents per hundred pounds higher than those from Western Ontario.

By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):

Q. Is that to Winnipeg?

A. To any points in the West. To Winnipeg, Edmonton and other points.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the rate from Annapolis Valley to Edmonton?

A. Take Kentville, Nova Scotia. The rate from that point to Edmonton is \$1.33 per 100 pounds. The rate from Forest, Mr. Johnson's home town, is \$1.04, a difference of 29 cents.

By Mr. Armstrong (Lambton):

Q. What kind of freight is that?

A. I am speaking of apples in car-loads.

Q. Are the express rates the same?

A. At present I am speaking of freight rates. Mr. Johnson in his evidence referred to freight rates. There are very few apples shipped by express. The great bulk, in