

be seen by the Board's report to the Annual Meeting in Feb'y last, a copy of which I attach herewith, imposed a discriminatory rate of 10 cents per hundred pounds on freight arriving at Fort William by other than vessels of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Beatty line. Though the Board protested against this action on the part of the C. P. R., no relief was granted—full local rates being charged on freight arriving at Fort William by independent steamers. Again, this year, the same discrimination is practised, and it is found that the discrimination applies only to freight that is consigned to Winnipeg. The Committee yesterday met Mr. Whyte, General Manager of the Western Division, who virtually admitted that the position was an anomalous one when Winnipeg was the only one discriminated against, and he assured the Committee that he would at once give consideration to the matter.

Now, as the C. P. R. are approaching the Government for aid in various directions, the Committee consider that it would be well for you to be fully informed on this matter, so that in case the C. P. R. do not remove the present most objectionable discriminatory rate, the Board will be in a position to wire you, and ask you to use your influence with the Government to bring such pressure on the company as will cause it to grant us relief. You will please notice by the correspondence attached, that the late Minister of Railways, under date of the 5th of May, 1896, evaded acting on our request by referring to "Steam Boat Rates" when our letter to him referred clearly to rates from Fort William west.

The Committee wish me to draw your attention to a feature of the situation which stands prominently forward, and that is, that after the Government has expended millions of dollars on the construction of locks and canals between Montreal and Fort William, the C. P. R. and Beatty line vir-

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