

SHIPPERS WILL FIGHT THE DEMURRAGE BILL

Representatives at St. Paul to Be Urged to Defeat the Measure In House.

Fearing that the demurrage bill now before the legislature may become a law, jobbers and manufacturers all over the state are preparing to induce their representatives at St. Paul to defeat the measure.

It is pointed out that the law will work hardship on the heavy shippers. Under the proposed law they are allowed only forty-eight hours to load cars, after which demurrage charges are fixed. A penalty, which increases rapidly after the third day, is attached, and some of the shippers say it may amount in some cases to the cost of the car which is being loaded.

Max Zalk, president of the Duluth Machinery company, said yesterday that if the law is passed he will lose from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year.

"No railroad company today would bring suit to collect demurrage," he said. "because the courts have held it is not a valid claim. The railroads, however, are clever enough to gain their ends without the aid of the courts, for they can and have made it difficult for the shipper to get cars, and in many other ways known to railroad science frequently retaliate on those who have refused to obey their request."

Mr. Zalk said that the minimum capacity of cars was placed ten years ago at 40,000 pounds, but, he added, notwithstanding the increased size of the cars, no increase in the time allowed for loading has been made.