

Witness—I think Mr. Garrett could answer that question better than I could ; but I think it is about eighteen months or two years ago.

Mr. Garrett—Are you aware of western merchants being governed in their purchases, as between Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, by the difference of freight, in favor of Baltimore?

Witness—It seems to me that that is a question scarcely to be asked by so shrewd a merchant as Mr. Garrett.

Mr. Garrett—To be sure I can understand the reply that must be given to these questions, but I only put them for the purpose of affording information on the subject of discrimination to the Committee.

Witness—(answering)—Of course, sir. If you buy a pound of coffee or sugar for ten cents, and you take it from one town to another, you will just have the difference of transportation to pay for that sugar or coffee when it gets to its destination.

Mr. Vickers—Are you aware of any irregularities on the freights of the articles which you manufacture, from the points of Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia, as far back as 1859, and running up?

Witness—I believe there were very irregular rates of freight charged from New York, Philadelphia, and other points, in connection with the competition which took place upon the different lines of road at the period of the conflict.

Mr. Vickers—How long has that ceased?

Witness—So far as I know, it has ceased about six months. I cannot answer more particularly, because I have not got accurate books with me.

Mr. Vickers—That period corresponds with what the President [Mr. Garrett] said.

Mr. Vickers—Do you know anything about the depression of 1858, as compared with '59?

Witness—I don't think anybody knew any more about it than I did. I think we all suffered.

Mr. Vickers—The business of '59 compared generally with '58?

Witness—Of course we all know that the inflation of '56 (the previous year) brought on the crisis of 1857; and I must say, that I don't think we have got over it yet.

Mr. Vickers—In 1858, as compared with 1859, was not the business better?

Witness—I should suppose there was more business done generally in 1859 than 1858.

Mr. Vickers—A very marked business?

Witness—Not very marked.

Mr. Garrett—The witness is doubtless aware that the principal routes for the business of New York to the west, are the New York and Erie Road and the New York Central. Is he