

the movement of refined products other than gasoline increased 50 percent, and the movement of sulfur increased 50 percent.

Mr. RANKIN. Did you say that was a 9-foot channel?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; 9 feet deep and 100 feet wide.

Mr. RANKIN. Extending all the way to the Gulf of Mexico?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; from Corpus Christi, Tex., to Apalachicola, Fla.

Mr. RANKIN. I thought they said this morning it was 12 feet deep.

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; the proposal is to deepen it to 12 feet.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; that is the proposal.

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. I urge—and I think every operator on the waterway would urge the same thing—deepening of that canal immediately to 12 feet and widening of the canal to 125 feet. We have a shortage of critical materials. We cannot get steel for the construction of engines, boats, and barges, and the best way to get more use out of the equipment we now have is to move it faster and load it deeper, and actually by widening and deepening the canal we can increase the capacity of our present equipment at least 25 percent.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you moved any crude oil in wooden barges, Mr. De Bardeleben?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; I have not, but I know it has been done, is being done, and can be done.

Mr. SMITH. What type of petroleum, Mr. De Bardeleben, did you say was used in the production of aluminum?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Petroleum coke is used in the manufacture of electrodes which are used in connection with the manufacture of aluminum, and we handle about 60,000 tons a month from Port Arthur to New Orleans.

The CHAIRMAN. All from Port Arthur?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; from Port Arthur.

Mr. CULKIN. Do you know the capacity of that Corpus Christi to Apalachicola canal?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. What is the capacity of it?

Mr. CULKIN. Yes; in tonnage.

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. That would be pretty hard to answer.

Mr. CULKIN. You are an expert operator; give me an estimate of it.

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. They moved approximately 25,000,000 tons this year.

Mr. CULKIN. Is it used, in your judgment, to capacity now?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. Can you carry more than that on it?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. How much more; twice as much?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. I think so.

Mr. CULKIN. That would make 50,000,000 tons on the present canal?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. That is right, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. Would you not have to close off that canal in order to improve it?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; it has been improved from time to time; it has been widened, and the bends have been straightened up.

Mr. CULKIN. And it has been kept up all the time?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; it has been kept up all the time, never stopped operation.