

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. When we first started operating on this canal we handled five barges in a tow.

Mr. BOYKIN. Did you have any trouble with them?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes; we had some, but not a great deal.

Mr. BOYKIN. Have they straightened out some of the bends in the canal?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; they have straightened out some of the bends, and made improvements in the waterway since then.

Mr. BOYKIN. Mr. Chairman, that might be a way to increase it a little.

Mr. RANKIN. Those five barges carried about 15,000 barrels?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Those particular barges were about 800-barrel barges.

Mr. RANKIN. About 4,000 barrels in all?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. A great many of your barges carry a little more than that, do they not?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Oh, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Some of them carry 9,000, do they not?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; some of them carry 9,000, and quite a few of them are larger than that.

The CHAIRMAN. As to those large ones, you usually just have three of them in a tow, do you not?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes; three in some of them, and some of them we operate with two in a tow. Some of those barges are 17,000-barrel barges.

The CHAIRMAN. On this narrow canal you pull and do not push your tows?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; it is all tandem towing, just the same as an engine pulling a train of cars.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you operate any of them on the Mississippi River?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; we do not operate north of New Orleans, but they are operating up the Mississippi River.

The CHAIRMAN. But the others are operating them?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. They carry 8 or 10 barges in a tow?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; 8 to 10.

The CHAIRMAN. And it is the same way up the Ohio River?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Yes, sir; that is right, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. Do you go up the Mississippi River at all?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. Up until about 2 years ago we navigated as far north as Memphis.

Mr. CULKIN. And you have not been up the Ohio River?

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. No, sir; our boats do not operate that far north.

Mr. CULKIN. Those are sheltered waters up the Ohio until you get into the Great Lakes.

Mr. DE BARDELEBEN. We take barges from Pittsburgh to Houston, the same barge and the same load over all the sections of the waterway.

Mr. CULKIN. You take them outside?