

COAL SCARCITY IS VERY SERIOUS

INTERSTATE BOARD AGAIN AP-
PEALS TO RAILROADS TO DO
SOMETHING.

NORTH DAKOTA IS SUFFERING

GREAT NORTHERN IS CHARGED
WITH HOLDING COAL SUP-
PLY FOR DEMURRAGE.

Washington, Jan. 24. — The interstate commerce commission has called the attention of the railroad interests to renewed complaints which have recently come from North Dakota regarding the shortage in coal and other supplies, and asked them to relieve the situation.

A recent dispatch from Galvin said that place was almost out of coal and no relief was in sight. Out of eighteen cars consigned to that town since Dec. 1 only four have been received.

Hansbrough Sees President.

A Hastings dispatch said there was no fuel nor flour on hand and that the people were suffering.

The coal famine situation in North Dakota has become so serious that Senator Hansbrough had a conference with President Roosevelt to see if federal means cannot be found to relieve the situation. The conference was brief and nothing was decided on.

Before taking this course, however, the senator sent a telegram to Gov. Burke, asking whether the state authorities will be able to find a way to clear the blockade and let into the state a coal supply.

That the governor will be able to meet the situation without assistance is regarded as unlikely.

Many Appeals for Relief.

Telegrams appealing for relief were laid before the interstate commerce commission by Senator Hansbrough. Some of these dispatches declare that the statement issued by the Great Northern railroad, that the blockade had been lifted on that line, is not true. It is said also that a large supply of coal destined for North Dakota is being held at a junction point in Minnesota, pending a settlement of demurrage charges on the cars. This charge is being investigated by the interstate commerce commission.

Blockade is Mending.

St. Paul, Jan. 24.—Some slight improvement in the movement of traffic over the Northern lines was reported yesterday, but the same general conditions prevail. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern delayed trains from the west got in yesterday and traffic is moving over the lines in fair shape.