

Fuel Co., which supplies the far South Side, were today alarmed to find that the wagon drivers would give them but half of their regular order. A person who had been getting 50 pounds a day was given but 25.

"We have had to curtail our sales," said C. F. Jones, manager of the Ridge company. "We have been buying ice from the Consumers Co. The Consumers Co. has five years' supply of ice in storage houses in the Wisconsin lake region, but can't get the ice to Chicago because of a shortage of labor in the lake region."

A rumor that ice companies of the city were stacking up a reserve supply in and near the city to sell at fancy prices in case of a rail strike was denied by every ice dealer questioned.

"In case of a rail strike the Consumers Co. will not be able to get a pound of ice into the city and we have no reserve supply here," said General Manager Campbell of the Consumers Co.

"We have discontinued sales to small dealers except where the dealers had contracts we could not break and have instructed our drivers to sell the users but 50 per cent of their usual supply. In case of a strike we could not get ice to Chicago from the Wisconsin lakes."

"There will be a calamity in Chicago if there is a rail strike," said A. E. Boyle, manager of Boyle Bros. Ice Co., a big North Side concern. "We would try to get some ice for the babies and hospitals, but I don't know how we would get it here. We would simply have to shut up business while the strike was on, I am afraid. We had to close four depots yesterday for lack of ice."

"Less than 10 per cent of the ice used in Chicago is manufactured ice," said Herman Oetting, manager of Oetting Bros., ice jobbers. "And in case of a rail strike the artificial companies will have to quit making when they run out of coal."

Oetting was the only dealer who did not complain of inability to get ice.

"We have no trouble getting our ice into the city," said Oetting, "but we are limiting the dealers to the amount they were getting before the shortage. If we did not the whole season's supply at the Wisconsin and Michigan lakes would be sold out in less than two weeks."

Oetting Bros. sell exclusively to wagon dealers.

Mrs. A. E. Harper, 1401 Irving Park blvd., whose husband owns an ice route, said today that the big as well as the little ice companies were suffering from the ice shortage.

"The Consumers Co. has cut prices and advertised so extensively that it has driven most of the little fellows out of business," said Mrs. Harper, "but I think it is having a hard time getting ice for its own wagons."

Herman Winkelman, 3744 W. North av., who gets ice from his own storage houses in Wisconsin, said his ice houses would be empty in two weeks if the demand kept up. "We are paying \$4 a day for labor, but can't get men to load the ice cars at the lakes," said Winkelman. "Every company in the city is selling all the ice it can get, but can't get enough."

"We can't get the ice away from the lakes," said the manager of the Jefferson Ice Co., 652 W. Grand av. "There is no ice storage in the city and none can be brought in if the railroad men strike."

The Lincoln Ice Co., 468 Greenview av., told the same story of inability to get labor to load the ice on the cars at the lakes. The Pure Ice Co. makes artificial ice and will run until its coal gives out in case of a rail strike, but has not a pound of ice in storage.

The manager of Herman Bros. Ice & Coal Co., 1500 S. Jefferson, which is said to have refused to sell to some West Side customers, hung up the receiver without comment when a re-