

application of such a scheme to the wants of the existing trade, and a supposed future trade, respectively, be attendant with so enormous a risk of complete failure, it would seem to follow that any combined application of it to both objects merits, as it were, a double condemnation, and it becomes unnecessary to enlarge on the subject.

Thus I have endeavoured to show that in the contemplation of their scheme of so called improvements, at the mouth of the St. Charles River, the Harbour Commissioners are departing altogether from the purpose for which they were originally incorporated, and that any such scheme, on its own merits, is fraught with extreme danger to the real interests and prosperity of our port. As it would be somewhat unfair, however, to condemn such a scheme in so wholesale a manner, without suggesting an improvement, it may be as well, in conclusion, to consider briefly a few of those points to which, I conceive, the attention and energies of the Harbour Commissioners may be more advantageously directed.

Returning, for a moment, to the point from which we set out, I contend that the real task assigned to the Harbour Commissioners is that of obtaining the possession and control of the existing wharves on the river front, with a view of improving and extending the accommodation these wharves afford, on some comprehensive scale, rendering them better fitted to the requirements of our trade; and to this task they should immediately apply themselves, with all that zeal and activity for which they stand so conspicuous, yet with all that prudence and proper business caution which ought to characterize the actions of so important a trust. It would not be advisable, for instance, that because the Commissioners have made up their minds to acquire the wharves on the river front they should rush at the scheme impetuously, and expend the whole of their £300,000 sterling, in purchasing property, and then find themselves suddenly at a stand still for further means wherewith to improve the property they have acquired. It would obviously be more prudent to purchase three or four of the present wharves, situated, say, immediately above the Custom House; and then, after testing and confirming the practicability of any scheme of improvements thereon, to acquire the adjoining property, and extend their plan, till, by degrees, proper wharf accommodation be afforded along the whole river front to the general trade of the port, till it meet the particular accommodation existing for the timber trade at a point where the line of coves commences. In the prosecution of such a scheme, when the Commissioners arrive at that point at which all their present means be exhausted, should the improvements they have made be found practically to answer the requirements of the trade, and to be financially successful, there is no reason to doubt that fresh means, ample enough for the completion of the task, will