

sent protective policy of France. At the last annual meeting a resolution had been unanimously adopted to petition the Government not to lease at present the North Shore Railway. The petition had been sent and the reply of the Government had been published. It was also currently reported that for the present, at least, the Government had abandoned the idea of leasing the road. It having been rumored that Montreal was endeavoring to make the deepening of Lake St. Peter a public charge, a petition had been forwarded to the Dominion Government urging the unfairness of such a tax upon the commerce of the country. As well, if it was allowed, might the Government be asked to bear the expense of the Harbour improvements at Quebec. Nothing had been heard further of the matter, and he (Mr. Shehyn) was inclined to think that the attempt would not be made this session. A public meeting to consider the new tariff had been called by the Board, and several proposed amendments suggested by members of the various trades represented, and agreed to by the meeting, had been put into shape by the Council of the Board, and forwarded to Ottawa. He feared, however, that no result had followed this action. The dry goods men being dissatisfied, had met together and sent one of their number to Ottawa, who had been told that it was impossible to arrange details until the whole scheme had passed, when an endeavor would be made to adjust these minor matters in a satisfactory manner. It was well known by the members of the Board that a bill was at present before the House respecting the Coteau Bridge scheme. The measure had met with considerable opposition in Montreal and Quebec, though Ottawa supported it. The Council had therefore called a public meeting of merchants and others to consider the matter, at whose instance a petition had been forwarded to Ottawa opposing the scheme. The two principal points urged against the bridge were that it would interfere with the free navigation of the St. Law-

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