

I hope when we reach it with a railway it will be found to be a valuable portion of the Dominion. No doubt King Frost will endeavour to assert his rights and probably freeze the approaches to the harbours so that they will be difficult to approach in the winter season, but some means will be found to overcome that. There must be a tremendous sheet of water far beyond the reach of frost that can be used for many months of the year, and I hope we will be able to turn it to account. I am glad the project is under way.

There is another enterprise I should like to see under way and that is the Ottawa and Georgian Bay canal. I do not see how Canada is to do without that canal if it can be built for anything like the sum estimated, one hundred and ten or one hundred and twenty million dollars. It should be commenced right away. New York State is deepening and widening the Erie canal from Buffalo to Albany so that vessels carrying two or three hundred thousand bushels of grain will be able to load at Fort William or Duluth and run through to New York. The rate of carrying grain must be substantially reduced when that work is completed. They cannot carry grain now for less than four and a half or five cents a bushel. I am told that, with the completion of the canal, the rate will be reduced to two and a half cents a bushel and it is a matter for serious consideration to Canada how we are to meet that competition. If we do not provide a competing route our exports of grain will be completely taken from the port of Montreal and be carried by way of New York. I should like to know if the business men and Board of Trade of the city of Montreal are asleep on this question.

Hon. Sir RICHARD SCOTT—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—If they are they should be wakened up. They should investigate the extensive improvements that are being made to the Erie canal and form a correct idea of what that canal will be capable of doing when the work is completed, and then come back and report what they consider necessary on the part of Canada to meet the changed conditions. Let us

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make a beginning with the hope that at least we will be able to compete with our rivals. I do not see how we can ever expect to do that by any existing route.

I feel that I have gone as far as I should attempt, perhaps a little further. I have endeavoured as best I could to present the views I hold on the topics I have touched upon and I earnestly hope that with the discussion of all these matters we shall reach conclusions that are best for the country in which we reside and that we will do our utmost to build up and increase our trade and population, so that the prosperity that has attended us in the past will be continued and be the experience of our people in the future.

The motion was agreed to.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

MOTION.

The order of the day being called.

Consideration of the first report of the Committee of Selection appointed to name senators to serve on the several committees during the present session.—(Hon. Mr. Gibson).

Hon. Mr. GIBSON moved the adoption of the report, explaining that Mr. Taylor's name had been omitted by oversight from the Committee on Internal Economy, and Mr. Gordon's substituted, but that the latter had graciously given way when the mistake was discovered.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Is the report a list of names of members for each committee?

Hon. Mr. GIBSON—Yes.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I want to have them read.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved:

That the senators mentioned in the report of the committee of selection as having been chosen to serve on the several standing committees during the present session be, and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute the several committees with which their respective names appear in said report, to inquire into and report upon such matters as may be referred to them from time to time; and the Committee on Standing Orders is authorized to send for persons, papers and records required.