Fortunately for Quebec the two great undertakings so intimately connected with its future prospects—the North Shore Railway and the Harbour Improvements—are approaching completion simultaneously, as the one without the other would be of comparatively little value. The facilities offered by the tidal docks in connection with the direct Northern railway lines will then be such as to command universal attention, and our citizens have only to be true to their own interest to render Quebec that which it was intended by nature to be—the head of salt water navigation on the St. Lawrence. As an important factor in our future prosperity, the harbour works now in progress on the River St. Charles under the direction of the Harbour Commissioners and the immediate supervision of the Resident Engineer *—necessarily take a foremost position ; and as the improvements which they are intended to effect have advanced sufficiently to become the subject of some general notice at the close of the second working season since the date of their commencement, we may be permitted to refer to them more particularly and to call the attention of our readers, as well to their history and prospective advantages, as to the character and extent of the work performed and the difficulties that have had to be overcome, which, together with the plant employed, have, it is needless to say, attracted from time to time much notice from the general public and visitors both from the mother country and the United States. To render our remarks more intelligible, we supplement them with a plan of the proposed improvements, both railway and harbour, to which we refer the reader. At first sight it might seem extraordinary that works of any magnitude should be needful with a water-way possessing so many apparently natural facilities as the St. Lawrence presents to view at the port of Quebec : but such a conclusion, though natural,

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* Mr. Woodford Pilkington, Member Inst. C. E., Resident Engineer.
Mr. St. George J. Boswell, Assoc. Mem. Inst. C. E., Assistant.