

taken by the Town of St. Lambert, with wharves to receive the vessels; which launches the idea of establishing the principal railways of Canada radiating around Montreal as also the interior navigation lines.

of the St. Lawrence, puts back as an estuallity the question of establishing a Free Port at the head of Atlantic navigation.

"This question was somewhat discussed a few years ago, when the limit of ambition of the Montreal trade seemed to be the making of Montreal a Free Port, that is to say without dues or fees to be paid by the vessels coming in.

"Port franc' and 'Port libre' are two distinct things; because a 'Port franc' can never be a 'Port libre,' and vice versa. A 'port franc' is a port where all importations would be considered in bond and on which duties would be paid when taken out.

"But it seems to us that if the Canadian Government were to decide—who knows?—to establish a Free Port in Canada, the Island of Montreal is the ideal spot for this, inasmuch as its belt of river would render the collection of dues much easier than anywhere else.

Moreover, the *raison d'être* of the Free Port is to bring to industries the raw materials and the partly manufactured and on which dues are paid on the imported material only and not on the value added on by the manufacturing process.

Now, we have, in Montreal, the establishments all ready for this transformation of raw material into the manufactured product for consumption.

"We have miles and miles of wharves and shores ready to be lined

"Montreal, therefore, has all that is needed to become a Free Port and the dream of all those who see the Island of Montreal covered with habitations and manufacturers would speedily become a reality if it were decided to make it a free port.

"Evidently this is one of the projects the realization of which must be put off till the war is over; but the preliminary surveys could be undertaken immediately . . . If we had at Ottawa a Government which preoccupied itself with our industries, and in the cabinet influential representatives of Montreal and of the Province."

ST. LAMBERT TOWN COUNCIL

Alderman Deschenes proposed the resolution of which he had given notice, regarding the amalgamation of the four towns for the purpose of obtaining a Free Port on the South Shore. The resolution, which was unanimously adopted, reads as follows:

Basis of Union.

"Whereas the towns of St. Lambert, Longueuil, Greenfield Park and Montreal South are to apply to the federal Government in order to have a federal law passed for the establishing of a free port on the South Shore from St. Lambert to Longueuil, for the importation and exportation in and outside of the Dominion of Canada, and if such law is passed it shall be very important and necessary to carry out the union plan for the four above-