

The Docks and Harbour Improvements at Quebec and Lévis were carried out under the authority of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners and the Minister of Public Works.

By the statutes of 1873, the Quebec Harbour Commissioners were given control of Quebec Harbour, and charged with the duty of making all necessary improvements therein. The Governor in Council was authorized by that statute to raise \$1,200,000 to be used partly in redeeming old debentures and partly in defraying the cost of the improvements undertaken, such improvements being first sanctioned by the Governor in Council, on the joint report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Minister of Public Works. For the purpose, apparently, of giving the Government a controlling influence in the Board of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners, the Act of 1875 reconstituted the same and vested the power of appointing five of its members in the Governor in Council.

In the same year, 1875, the Governor in Council was authorized to raise \$500,000 for the completion of the Graving Dock at Lévis. The location of the proposed contract and the dimensions, plans and specifications were to be approved by the Governor in Council, on the joint recommendation of the Ministers of Marine and Fisheries and Public Works, but the expenditure of the moneys was to be under the control and upon the responsibility of the Minister of Public Works alone. The words of the Act in this particular are very clear, and are as follows:—

And any moneys to be hereunder paid to the Quebec Harbour Commissioners, shall be so paid from time to time as the work proceeds, upon the report of the Minister of Public Works that such progress is satisfactory.

We are particular in calling special attention to this important safeguard inserted by Parliament in the Act, because the Brief of Counsel for the Department of Public Works submitted to your Committee is silent respecting it.

In 1880 another Act was passed authorizing the Governor in Council to raise \$250,000, to be advanced to the Harbour Commissioners to enable them to complete the Tidal Dock at Quebec, begun under authority of the Act of 1873.

In 1882 an Act was passed authorizing the Governor in Council to raise a further sum of \$375,000, to be advanced to the Harbour Commissioners, to enable them to construct the important work known as the Cross-wall and Lock of the Quebec Harbour improvements.

This Act provided that the plans of the proposed work should be prepared by the engineers of the Department of Public Works, and that they should be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, and that public tenders should be called for, and the contract awarded by the Governor in Council.

The Quebec Harbour Commissioners, therefore, had no power or responsibility with regard either to the plans or the letting of the contract, these being entirely vested in the Minister of Public Works and the Governor in Council.

In 1883-84 and 1886 Acts were passed authorizing the Governor in Council to advance further sums of money to the Quebec Harbour Commissioners to enable them to complete the Graving Dock at Lévis, and the Wet and Tidal Docks at Quebec, amounting in all to \$1,350,000. And in 1887 the Governor in Council was further authorized to raise \$160,000 to be advanced to the Harbour Commissioners to enable them to complete the Graving Dock at Lévis, and \$1,100,000 to enable them to complete the other works, but it was specially provided in this statute that these large sums of money were to be advanced in the same way and on the same terms and conditions as were enacted by the Act of 1875 with respect to moneys thereby authorized to be advanced. It would, therefore, seem beyond controversy that the responsibility for the expenditure of these moneys was specially charged by Parliament upon the Minister of Public Works.

The Graving Dock at Esquimalt was originally begun by the Government of British Columbia. In 1884, as part of an agreement then made between the Province and Canada, this Dock was taken over by the latter, and an Act of Parliament passed that year authorized the Dominion Government to purchase and complete that work.