

co-operation to the movement for the improvement and cheapening of the St. Lawrence inland and ocean route.

As a result of these resolutions, delegates from the Toronto and Hamilton Boards of Trade joined, on 12th March, at Ottawa, with those representing the Corn Exchange Association and this Board in pressing upon the Hon. Mr. Pope, Minister of Railways and Canals, the necessity for improving and cheapening, in the interest of present and future trade, the St. Lawrence route from the West to the Ocean.

The Minister, in replying to the Deputation, said that in the relief asked for, reduction of Canal Tolls would be of little avail, but that the object of the Deputation would be accomplished by Canal enlargement from Kingston to Montreal, and the assumption by Government of the expense of improving and deepening the Ship Channel between Montreal and Quebec,—and further, *that the Channel (i.e., under water canal) through Lake St. Peter was as much a Government Public Work as any other canal in the Dominion.* While the Minister made no promise as to what the Government was prepared to do, he assured the Deputation that the representations that had been made by Petition and otherwise should receive careful consideration.

The Government reduced the canal tolls on grain to two cents per ton, by order in Council dated 21st April, and the concession was much increased in value by being announced early in the year, thus enabling forwarders and others to arrange their rates in advance of the opening of navigation.

The wisdom of the policy of reduced canal rates has been made apparent by the largely increased volume of European export traffic *via* the St. Lawrence during the past season. It is nevertheless matter for regret that the liberal views of the Minister with respect to the channel debt, are still held in abeyance.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF WHARFAGE CHARGES IN CANAL BASINS.

In accordance with the terms of a resolution adopted by the Board at the April Quarterly Meeting, which requested the Council to oppose any increase on charges on ships or cargoes being loaded or unloaded in the canal basins, representations were made to the Minister of Railways and Canals with the result that the contemplated increased rates have not been put into operation.

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