

From the economical and expeditious manner in which dredges *Nos. two and three* performed their work in the Prince's basin last Spring, I feel compelled to look towards these vessels, to complete the work so successfully commenced by them, and although I should regret to retard the progress of the river work below the Harbour, still as there is scarcity of berth room at the wharves at present for the vessels which can ascend, through the improved channel, I consider the most advisable course for the Commissioners to pursue, is to keep the Harbour, in such a state, as will enable them to avail themselves of the improvements of the channel, between Quebec and Montreal; and these Harbour improvements being of much smaller magnitude than the works below, the former should be in advance of the latter, as what would be the use of a 20 feet channel if there is not a 20 feet Harbour for ships to come to?

During the time these Dredges are in port, and making Harbour improvements, their expenses are wholly paid out of the Harbour Funds, or by special loan if connected with wharf building.

I consider this an advantage to the Provincial Government as so much time would otherwise be lost to the Dredges from the causes I have already alluded to.

By the statement of the cost of dredging, it will be seen that *Nos. 2 and 3* dredges work 100 per cent cheaper than *Nos. One and Four*, besides the immense saving of time, which is of so much importance in our present cramped state for berth room.

If these dredges cannot be brought into port next Spring, it will be impossible, with the slow dredges alone, to make the upper basin, as well as Prince's basin, thoroughly available for the year's business.

The amount of material to be removed to deepen Prince's basin (from the Island wharf to the Grand Trunk pier) is 37,509 cubic yards. This amount is to 20 feet at lowest water, and would probably occupy Dredges *Nos. 2 and 3* for about five weeks working time.

After Dredges *Nos. One and Four* have completed the deepening of the basins, I would place them to widen out the channel to 300 feet as commenced by Dredge No. One this fall, opposite to Jacques Cartier pier, (See Plan.)