

Richardson wing of the General Hospital commemorates his civic virtues. At that time the population of the city was 18,767. Three years later, in 1825, the work of the Committee began to show, for a strong effort was made to induce the Government to deepen the channel in Lake St. Peter so that "vessels of 250 tons burthen (!) " might reach Montreal fully laden during the " whole season."

The records of the Committee of Trade have, to a great extent, been preserved and the following is the first entry :—

MONTREAL, 11th April, 1822.

At a meeting of merchants and others interested in the commerce of the city, held this day at the Exchange in St. Joseph street, to take into consideration the propriety and the means of establishing a Committee of Trade,

The Honourable John Richardson having been called to the chair, the following resolutions were first read and afterwards separately proposed and carried :

*Resolved*, That the ruinous consequences now apprehended from the growing embarrassments of Canadian commerce can no longer be averted or even delayed by the solitary exertions of individuals or by the occasional hasty and inadequate deliberations of public meetings, and that the present alarming crisis demands the establishment of a standing Committee of Merchants, to be authorized by their constituents to watch over the general interests of the trade of the country.

*Resolved*, That to conciliate public favour and confidence, and to obtain such a combination of experience, energy and perseverance as existing circumstances require, the said Committee shall be established on liberal principles and be annually elected by ballot by such resident merchants of this city as shall contribute annually to the funds of the proposed institution the sum of three guineas, the first payment to be made at the time of subscription.

Peace of 1815.

It was not Canadian commerce only which was embarrassed at that time, for the return of peace