

QUEBEC BOARD OF TRADE.

THE GRAVING DOCK.



Mr. T. C. LEE asked when we might expect that the new dock proposed by the Harbor Commission would be commenced?

The PRESIDENT said the dock could not be built before the out-pier or breakwater was completed. This could be seen by referring to the plan of the works on the table.

Mr. T. C. LEE went on to say that the new kind of iron dock known as Walker's dock, should receive some attention. It was said it could be put up in six months, and most certainly the saving of time, which would thus be effected, rendered it worthy of consideration, and he hoped full inquiry would be made about its practicability. There was a dock of this kind in operation at the port of Callao. Of course an objection which would perhaps be argued against the dock was the fact of its being iron, in view of our severe winters. But we were told years ago, that we never could have railroads in this part of the country, because of the winter, yet they had been found practicable. We wanted a dock here. We were told that England was going to defend us *coute qui coute*. Now if the navies of the mother-country came out here, they might not be able to get pilots below, and so might get damaged, and would therefore require to have a dock in which to get their bottoms repaired. However we wanted such a dock in order to afford employment to our population here.

Mr. R. SHAW spoke briefly to the same effect, dwelling upon the great difficulty which existed in getting iron vessels repaired here—a difficulty which was made manifest in the case of the *United Kingdom* two years ago. The Harbor Commissioners were going to a very great expense to build this pier—why should we not have a dock which we required so much? It was a very important matter, inasmuch as the number of steamers coming here increased every year; and he hoped it would be fully considered by the Commissioners.

The PRESIDENT said that the information for which a desire was expressed had been already obtained. The kind of dock referred to had been too short a time in use to enable any one to judge of its merits. There were but two of these docks. The one which was at Callao would not be large enough for the class of steamers coming to this port. Such a dock as we required would cost £100,000 sterling. Under these circumstances the Commissioners did not think themselves justified in going into a comparatively untried experiment. In any case it was necessary the breakwater should be completed first.

Mr. T. C. LEE said that as the dock in question was a new and improved invention, the Harbor Commissioners should make full enquiries about it.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Mr. BICKELL said that some mention was made in the Report about the Reciprocity Treaty. In view of its possible alteration, had any representations been made to the Government about admitting our ships in the United States?

The PRESIDENT said that the matter had received the attention of the Board.