

HARBOUR ENGINEERS' OFFICE.

QUEBEC, 23rd DECEMBER, 1886.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Commissioners, the following with reference to the Harbour Works, etc., under my charge :—

The Graving Dock.

As stated in my report of last year the completion of this work was delayed, owing to the great amount of leakage which took place through the coffer-dam and outer works.

At the earliest moment, last spring, the Contractors resumed work, and, after much difficulty, succeeded in overcoming the inflow of water, and thus were enabled to complete the wing walls and works outside of the dock proper.

During the summer the caisson, which had been completed, was floated into place, and, on the 21st August, the Dock was pumped out, and the keel-blocks placed in position. On the 1st September the steamship "Titania" was successfully docked, thus practically proving the completion of the Dock.

On the 23rd September the last stone was formally laid by the Honorable Sir Hector L. Langevin K. C. M. G.; C. B., Minister of Public Works of Canada, with appropriate ceremonies, thus bringing to a termination, a work executed in the face of many unforeseen and unexpected difficulties, which will be of benefit and importance to the Port of Quebec.

The main pumping machinery, manufactured by Messrs. Carrier, Lainé Co., of Levis, has proved to be satisfactory; but some changes will have to be made in the auxilliary pumps, which were constructed in accordance with plans, etc., furnished by Messrs. Kinipple & Morris, as they are weak in construction and unsatisfactory in working.

It is desirable that the Dock and premises shall be placed under the charge of a superintendent before the opening of navigation, next spring, and a tariff of tolls for its use be established.

The Louise Basin.

The experience gained during the winter of 1884-85 led to precautions being taken to prevent injury being done to the tops of the submerged cribs by ice during last winter, and at the commencement of the work, in May last, they were found to be