

the general interests of commerce, the Council hereby orders that a letter be addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Marine, enclosing a copy of this resolution, and praying that such means be employed as he may deem proper to bring the subject before the authorities in England, and that he urge upon them the justice of granting an extension of the time of underwriting on hulls engaged in the St Lawrence trade to cover the month of October.

CANAL TOLLS—FREE NAVIGATION.

Owing to the policy of the Government with regard to Canal Tolls, whereby the reduction conceded lasts only for that season of navigation, the Council once again took up this question and the larger one of the Channel Debt, Harbour Dues, &c., by addressing a petition to the Minister of Public Works on 6th March, praying (1) that the Government would assume all the cost of the Ship Channel improvements between the ports of Quebec and Montreal, so as to admit of the abolition of burdensome Harbour Charges; (2) that all Tolls levied upon Grain and other Merchandise passing through the Canadian Canals be reduced to the lowest possible nominal rate (say one cent per ton), the reduction to remain in force until said Tolls are abolished by Parliament, and (3) that such other onerous exactions as Police, Hospital and Pilotage Dues, and Custom House Fees, now levied on the traffic of the St. Lawrence, be either discontinued altogether or so greatly reduced as to enable our Ocean Highway to maintain its position in the commercial world. This Petition was duly acknowledged by Sir Hector Langevin, who intimated that it would be laid before the Privy Council.

Meantime, the position taken by the Council on this important subject was much strengthened by the action of the Toronto Board of Trade, which at a General Meeting, held on 24th February, adopted the following resolutions, and communicated same to your Council:—

Resolved, That this Board are of opinion that, in view of the fact that the Erie Canal is free from tolls, that a further expenditure of \$5,000,000 is about to be made in the improvement of the same, and that as the Welland Canal is only of limited use to the Canadian Marine until such time as the St. Lawrence Canals have been brought to the same standard, it is imperative on the Dominion Government to proceed immediately to enlarge the St. Lawrence Canals, between Kingston and Montreal, to a depth of fourteen feet, or to a uniform depth with the Welland Canal, and thus preserve and keep our waterway as the foremost route to the seaboard.

Resolved, That believing that anything which will contribute to the building up of the ocean export and import trade at Montreal, or reduce the carrying rates between the West and the East is for our mutual advantage, this Board invites the co-operation of the Montreal Board of Trade in furthering the improvement of water communication between the lakes and the seaboard.

In acknowledging the foregoing, the Secretary was instructed to assure the Toronto Board that the Council would give its most hearty