

6th. What remedy your Board would propose to lessen the cost of Towage of Sailing Vessels from Father Point to Quebec and from Quebec to Montreal.

I will thank you to let me have the information above-named as soon as practicable, and also to furnish any further data bearing upon this subject.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HECTOR L. LANGEVIN.

It having been determined that the inquiries could be more satisfactorily made and reported upon jointly, than were your Corporations to submit separate statements, the undersigned was instructed to make investigation and submit proposed answers to the MINISTER's questions; presenting all particulars in the form that may be considered most explicit and useful. This I now have the honor to do; and the only apology that can be made for the delay in presenting my report, is the range of the investigation that seemed necessary, extending over long periods,—and the diversity of particulars which were considered to have a bearing upon the general question.

My aim has mainly been to collect and systematise all available information bearing, directly or indirectly, on matters referred to in the foregoing letter.

This communication has assumed dimensions which, at the outset, were not contemplated. After much condensation, the first section is but little more than a synopsis of the progress of the Carrying Trade of North America during the past quarter of a century. The second, embracing the replies to the Minister's inquiries, is worth examining; and it is hoped that the result of the consideration which the subject is receiving from the mercantile community and the Government, may be the adoption of a policy that will preserve the trade of Canada's Great Water Highway from being broken down, as has been that of the Erie Canal.

The inquiry, of which the matter in the following pages is the out-come, has been a tedious but congenial one; and I have only further to express my solicitude that the particulars adduced may tend to the speedy initiation of measures that will free the inland and ocean commerce of Canada from every obstructive burden.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. PATTERSON,

*Secretary.*

MONTREAL, 6th November, 1880.