

have carried them so far carry the load a little longer?

Yours respectfully,  
(Sgd) J. G. Scott,  
President Quebec Board of Trade.

I may say that this Mr. Scott is one of the most able men in transportation matters, either by railway or by water, and is an authority on this question.

Honourable gentlemen will see from the facts that I have put before the House that the Quebec Board of Trade had communicated with board of trade in other provinces. This, in my opinion, is the remedy for the extremely serious position in which Canada finds itself to-day. If the Government will follow the advice given I feel confident that the farmers of the Northwest and the seaports of Canada will soon reap all the benefits which were promised in Parliament when the building of this railway was undertaken.

The question was raised, I think by the honourable gentleman from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Tessier) as to it being in the interest of Canada in general and of Quebec in particular to declare Quebec a free port. This is a question upon which I am not ready to pronounce myself. We know that the port of Hamburg in Germany is a free port; but whether it would be advantageous to Quebec to be a free port is a question which requires some study, and I have not had the occasion nor the time to study it. It will be time enough to discuss this question when the Government have taken all the facts into consideration, and have come to a conclusion. I hope that the Government will seriously consider the letter from the Mayor of Quebec—I put my own opinions aside—and the letter from the Quebec Board of Trade.

Quebec is entitled to special consideration. Some seven or eight years ago, as is mentioned in the letter of the Mayor, Quebec gave property valued at over \$3,000,000 in order that the Government might build elevators, terminals, a union station, and workshops, and do whatever was necessary to make the port of Quebec ready to receive all the grain from the west. Nothing has been done as yet. All we have got is a little station on Champlain market. Properties that cost over \$1,000,000 were sold to the Government for \$100,000 on the understanding that over \$3,000,000 would be expended in building elevators, and so on. We were promised workshops. They have built workshops, but, instead of putting them in the place where it was decided that should go, they were built in St. Malo, near Quebec. These workshops were com-

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE.

pleted nearly two years ago, but they have been closed down and nothing has been done since then. They have never repaired an engine there, they have never done a dollar's worth of work for the public. I point out to the Government the special position that we are in, apart from what ought to be done for the port of Quebec, and I ask the Government to look into these facts and do what is right not only in the interest of Quebec but of the Dominion at large. I have no doubt that the honourable gentleman from the Gulf division (Hon. Mr. L'Espérance) introduced his resolution in good faith, and I congratulate him upon it. Certainly he is in earnest and knows something about the question, being still chairman of the harbour commission; but I think his enthusiasm has carried him too far. What he has said was no doubt in good faith, but when he says that "our tidewater ports are properly equipped for the storage and speedy handling of grain and other merchandise, it is misleading and would prevent our obtaining what is due to us if not put right.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: Honourable gentlemen, this is a very important subject and need not be approached with any feeling of acrimony. The honourable member for Grandville (Hon. Mr. Choquette) has stated his case very well. Every one must agree that we want to export our products through our own ports.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: My honourable friend from Halifax says, "Hear, hear." Halifax got \$30,000,000, but St. John, with Courtenay Bay, has been given only two or three millions.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: \$15,000,000 was voted for St. John five or six years ago.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: \$15,000,000?

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: For construction at Courtenay Bay.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: My honourable friend says that there is \$15,000,000 in the estimates.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: They have been spending the money for years. It may not be in the estimates to-day.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: I refer to the honourable the leader of the Government. He will tell us what is in the estimates.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I cannot answer my honourable friend. I know that