

doubt, but I think it would be presumption for myself or for the Council of the Board to convene a meeting such as I see to-day and to come here prepared with cut and dry resolutions, which would be assented to probably as a matter of course, and not giving anyone any particular trouble, would become a dead-letter sooner or later. If you, gentlemen, desire to pursue a successful agitation which I hope to see now commenced, you are bound to give this question full and earnest consideration, to express your opinions frankly and freely, and to put your shoulders to the wheel, and work for yourselves without trusting to anybody. We don't want engineering plans. I think it would be utterly out of place now to discuss any particular plan for the extension of the Harbor or the improvement of the Channel. We have not yet reached that point, and are contending first for the general principle. As far as I take it, the Harbor Commission is in a state of practical bankruptcy; it has really resolved itself into a Government Department for the collection of dues and the payment of interest on the money spent. What are we to do under the circumstances. The question is one which is of interest to all classes of citizens. The general property-holder of the city of Montreal has as deep an interest in this question as the mercantile community and the shipping interest. It is for the benefit of every man in the city who is depending on industry for his bread and butter to have the matter settled once for all. I look upon it that the general property-holder represented by the Corporation is as much interested in the question as any other class of the community. But above all it is the question which affects most closely the producer of exportable products throughout the whole Dominion: for any remission of dues, any reduction of the charges inseparable from the carrying of his property to a market, is so much money in his pocket. (Applause.)

During the past year, the two great railways, centering in this city, have been enormously developed; new roads have been opened, and new trade promoted, which will give occupation to shipping and benefit the country immensely. To meet this development, nothing has been done. The Harbor of Montreal has not, in any sense, been improved worthy of the developments which are going on around us, and which will demand further accommodation, if we are to avail ourselves of this trade. I