

If the natural advantages offered by the port of Quebec, are appreciated as they should be by the people of Canada, the bulk of the trade of our country, and a great part of the United States, with the European markets will follow the Saint Lawrence route, and if not it will go by New York, Boston and Portland.

New York is now dredging her harbor to a depth of forty feet, with a channel 2,000 feet wide to the open sea. The estimated cost on the start was \$10,000,000 but in all probability it will cost \$20,000,000 before it is finished.

Our southern neighbors are not afraid to spend money for the development of their country. Last session the United States congress voted fifty millions of dollars (\$50,000,000), for river and harbor improvements.

Evidently we must bestir ours lives if we want to keep pace with them.

It was said during the debate that the channel from Quebec to Montreal would be dredged to a depth of thirty feet and a width of six hundred feet at an estimated cost of two million dollars.

I am afraid that like New York this first estimate is rather low.

As a member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers I am not afraid to risk my reputation in saying that to make and maintain a channel 600 feet wide and 30 feet deep clear of obstruction between Quebec and Montreal it will cost double that amount.

But this is not the question whether it is to cost two or four millions, the question is will it be ample when done?

I say positively no!

Unless we have a depth of 40 feet, with the increasing demand for larger ocean freight-carrying vessels, we cannot compete with the port of New York, and the trade will go there notwithstanding our shortening of distance.

At a meeting called at the suggestion of Hon. Mr Dobell and held at the Quebec Harbor Commissioners rooms a few days ago, attended by our most trustworthy pilots and other men of experience, it was admitted on all sides, that it would only cost a trifle, comparatively speaking, to have a 40 foot channel of ample width from Quebec to the ocean at low tide.