

manufacturing cities. Along the Back River the Island of Montreal would obtain another long water frontage for mercantile purposes. The sale of the electric H.P. on this section will go a long way towards paying Bond Interest.

Mr. Rogers receives and replies to a great deputation on 15th April, 1914.

62. The statements made by the Minister of Works on the 23rd February as to the policy of the Government were heartily welcomed by the promoters of the Canal, especially the statement which he made that the report of the Commission would not be long delayed, and that the Government would take into serious consideration the possibility of building sections of the Canal, if they could not see their way to build the whole.

This feeling was evidenced in the deputation which waited upon the Minister of Public Works on the 15th April, 1914, at Ottawa.

This Deputation, which was organised in Montreal under the direction of many of the public bodies, consisted of 1,500 delegates.

*La Presse* of Montreal said "the demonstration which the friends of the Georgian Bay Canal gave at Ottawa should be described as an event absolutely without precedent. Never probably has any delegation so numerous and so representative been received by any Canadian Government."

The Deputation was headed by His Honour the Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Martin, and was supported by Senators Landry, Dandurand, Beique, Bowyer, Cloran, Choquette, the Hon. R. Lemieux, M.M. Lamarche, R. Bickerdike, C. A. Wilson, J. A. Ethier Lapointe, Gerald White, E. Lapointe, P. A. Sequin, L. J. Gauthier, J. Demers, and G. Boyer—all Members of the House of Commons.

Replying to this Deputation Mr. Rogers said :—

"It is true that the Georgian Bay Canal has its great advantages in many respects. It will shorten by 300 miles the distance between Lake Superior and ocean ports. This is sufficient to call from the Government our best consideration.

"In addition to this we would have through the construction of the Georgian Bay Canada, a route in Canadian territory entirely free from all American entanglements.

"In addition we would have an opportunity for the development of a very large amount of power that, according to estimates that I have had made, would in itself probably be sufficient to meet the interest on the cost of construction of this undertaking. From these and other points there are many advantages in considering this great undertaking, and you can depend upon it that the Commission as appointed will give most complete consideration to all points, and when the Government of to-day secures the report of that Commission you can depend upon it it will be acted upon according to its merits, and in the belief that such action will meet the confidence and support of the citizens of all parts of Canada. And I think that the note you have sounded so well to-day represents the views of the present Government, and we have no hesitation in saying that we believe in the policy of preserving to all who acknowledge Canada as their Nation, Canadian trade within its own borders, and we propose to do this to its fullest extent in the future as we have done in the past."