

INTRODUCTORY.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, AND THE CORN EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION.

F. W. HENSHAW, Esq.,

President Board of Trade;

AND

ROBERT ESDAILE, Esq.,

President Corn Exchange Association:—

GENTLEMEN,

Communications were addressed to you respectively, by the Honorable the MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, in which he requested sundry information, that he might "be in a position to fully enter into and discuss the questions recently laid before the Federal Government by the several Deputations from the East and West of Canada,—viz., the freedom, as far as practicable, of the St. Lawrence route." The letters to you were precisely alike. The following is a copy:—

OTTAWA, 28th June, 1880.

SIR,

In order to be in a position to fully enter into and discuss the questions recently laid before the Federal Government by the several Deputations from the East and West of Canada, viz.:—the freedom, as far as practicable, of the St. Lawrence route, I am desirous of acquiring certain information which, I believe, the Corn Exchange Association, [the Board of Trade,] and other Public Bodies can furnish me with, the possession of which would enable me, together with my colleague, the Minister of Railways and Canals, to lay before the Privy Council such Report upon the subject as would form the basis of our discussions.

I have therefore the honor to request that you will furnish me with the following Statements:—

- 1st. A Statement showing the comparative cost of Transport viâ the Erie Canal and the St. Lawrence Canal.
- 2nd. The Tolls charged on both routes.
- 3rd. A statement showing the comparative cost of Harbor Dues in Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore.
- 4th. What reduction in Dues your Board would recommend, either as to Tonnage dues on Vessels, or Wharfage rates on Goods, in order to successfully compete with the Ports above-mentioned?
- 5th. The comparative cost of Pilotage at all the above-mentioned Ports, and what remedy your Board would propose in order to reduce the cost of this service below Quebec, as also from Quebec to Montreal.