

other kind of merchandise, so that there were no available berths for ships with general cargo and considerable loss and delay was the consequence.

To quote from « a letter from a member of the Board of Trade on the subject of the Harbour improvements : » « For » many years past the wharfage accommodation of Quebec has » been found to be but ill adapted to the requirements of our » trade. The deep water privileges appears to have been » conceded originally to the possessors of small properties on » the shore, who erected in front thereof wharves of greater » or less dimensions at all conceivable angles and depths of » water, which, however well suited to their own business » views at the time, and to the average size of vessels some » thirty years since, are, in their present somewhat improved » state, when the number and size of vessels visiting the port » are considered, but a sorry makeshift for any thing like » proper wharfage accommodation.»

The above extract from the published letter, is endorsed by the action of the Board of Trade of Quebec, a fact established by the introduction into that document of a passage from a report submitted to a general meeting of that body on the 6th of August 1856, and which was forwarded to the Executive, thereby fully proving that the wharfage accommodation was insufficient for the business of the Port.

After, it would seem, repeated applications to the government, a Harbour Commission was appointed, and fortunately to the satisfaction of the writer of the letter alluded to ; but with the admission on his part of satisfaction as to the composition of the Commission ends his approval, and the acts of the Harbour Commissioners receive his censure.

Without desiring in any way to stand forward as champions and defenders of the proceedings of the Commission, let us quietly see if common sense, will not prove their conduct to have been based on sound and practical views of the requirements of the case, and their acts themselves speak better