

and pin our trust on the Commission, as at present constituted and under the conditions that now exist, we shall be utterly disappointed and trust to a broken reed.

If it be the case, as has been asserted in my hearing, that the shipping coming to this port cannot bear any further burdens, and that the charges here are greater than are warranted by the accommodation, the question arises for us, where are we to turn and what are we to do to accomplish this desired improvement in our Harbor? I would respectfully suggest that the interests concerned should lay their heads together and decide on immediate action. The Board of Trade has repeatedly, of late years, gone to Ottawa and urged the question on the members of the Government. The answer invariably given to all our applications has been that the Government would give their most serious consideration to the representations made. In fact, the answer to us might have been stereotyped. From time to time we have gone to Ottawa and come back with very much the same flattering assurances, from which nothing whatever has come. I very much fear that it is totally and utterly useless to go on with such deputations in future.

Judging from the fact that a popular government must necessarily look to the different opinions of the entire country before taking any extraordinary measures, I am not disposed to lay too much blame on the Government for their dilatoriness in this matter. But we shall have ourselves to blame if we continue to go to them in the future as we have gone in the past. My opinion is that the time is passed for deputations and complimentary newspaper paragraphs on this subject. I think that an organized agitation, energetic, and resolved to accomplish its object, should take the place of deputations.

The articles in the press and the great system of sending deputations are very well in their way, but they do not go far enough for my fancy. I look round this room and I see prominent business men who are accustomed to deal with their own concerns in a very different spirit from that in which they have heretofore approached this matter. We have now, in my belief, to deal with this question partly as a political and partly as a commercial one.

The Council of the Board of Trade have not prepared any programme for to-day's proceedings. They have ideas no