

pressure on the money market at that time, rendered the raising of funds very doubtful; and, although money matters are not much better now than they were then, and although I have every reason to think that the estimate is correct, yet I still think something of the kind might be done to good advantage.

Estimate, so far as I know, has been made of Mr. Rubidge's smaller plan, so that this, or something of a similar kind, might be adopted.

The great objection that is made to this project, is its distance from Quebec, which is about nine miles. It is therefore supposed that it would injure Quebec and would be inconvenient for individuals already established there.

But, in answer to this objection, it may be said that in all cases, where the general good of the whole province is at stake, sectional and individual interests ought to be laid aside, and the general good consulted.

But even let us suppose that the interest of Quebec is alone to be consulted; and let us also suppose, which I really believe to be true, that no place nigher Quebec can be found adapted for that purpose; and, also, let us suppose, which I also think very probable, that unless something of the kind is done, the produce trade will leave the St. Lawrence altogether; the question will then be, whether is it better for the people of Quebec to have their transshipping done at Cap Rouge, or to have no business of the kind at all?

The Americans are now taking away a great part of our grain trade. The question is, what is the cause of this?

There are a great many causes. I shall not, at present, enter into a full discussion of the subject, but will only mention one thing which, there is no doubt, contributes much to bring about this state of things, and that is, the very great facilities which they have by means of modern inventions for transshipping, where that operation has to be performed.

At Oswego, Buffalo and other ports on the lake shores, where property is transhipped, they will take wheat into store at the rate of 1000 bushels an hour, and again re-ship it with equal rapidity, and all for the small charge of one cent per bushel. Whereas, with us it takes about treble the time and treble the cost to do the same thing.

Thus they do business with so much rapidity, and at so low charges, that they can afford to give more for our produce in our markets than we can give. So that, unless we meet them with similar improvements, our trade will be gone, perhaps never to return.

I am, &c., &c.,

MICHAEL SCOTT.