

## THE HARBOUR.

At the last annual meeting of the Board the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*,—That the Council are hereby requested to urge upon the Government, by deputation or petition, the necessity that presently exists for prompt action, and such relief being extended to the Montreal Harbour Commissioners as will enable them to complete the works now in progress for harbour enlargement and flood prevention ; and that, in the opinion of the Board, such relief may reasonably be afforded by the Government reimbursing the Commissioners such harbour monies, not hitherto refunded, as have been paid to the Government or expended upon the channel improvements and buoy service in the River St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec, by substantial aid to the harbour of Montreal and contemplated and necessary improvements thereto.

In accordance with that request, the Council at its first meeting, gave its attention to this important subject, and thereafter arranged with the Harbour Commissioners for a joint deputation of the two bodies to meet the Cabinet at Ottawa on the 18th February with regard to Montreal's claims for aid in connection with harbour works. The joint deputation, consisting of representatives of this Board, the Harbour Commissioners and the Shipping Interest, was introduced by Sir Donald Smith and the Hon. Mr. Curran, and was received by the Premier, the Minister of Finance and almost all the other members of the Cabinet. The several speakers of the deputation made clear and emphatic statements as to the need of assistance for the harbour, and the justice of Montreal's claim therefor, both because it is the national port, and also on account of the Government having in time past taken from the harbour funds over \$1,000,000, chiefly on account of interest on sums expended by it for the deepening of Lake St. Peter and on other Dominion works not belonging to or connected with the harbour.

The Premier, in replying, acknowledged the importance of the subject, and said that anything the Government could do to assist Montreal it would indeed be glad to do. Subsequently the Minister of Finance wrote as follows :

"I regret that so long a time has elapsed before replying to your request and that of the deputation which waited on the Government some few days ago in the interests of the harbour and trade of Montreal and the St. Lawrence."

"I now beg to state the result of the careful consideration which has been given to your representations by the Council in regard thereto. It is not necessary for me to say that with the energy, the enterprise and labours of the Harbour Commission and the business and shipping men of Montreal, the Government has every possible sympathy, and it has endeavoured to practically show that sympathy in the heavy