

towards obtaining the object we have in view. Let us first work to have the Harbor Commission relieved of the River debt. At a future period, if we can go to the Government and show them two such powerful institutions as the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific railways, running through every constituency in the country, endorsing our application, the time may come, and come soon, when Montreal will be made a free port. At all events, I presume that the Committee named now will go to work at once, and prepare a plan to carry out our object. The Channel debt being assumed, and the prejudices which have existed heretofore overcome, we shall be enabled to go ahead and free our port from this taxation on shipping.

Let us bend all our energies for the present towards the one object of inducing the Government to assume the Lake St. Peter debt. A powerful leverage can be brought to bear through the combined action of members directly interested. Above all things, let us present the case in its true position not as a Montreal question, which will excite jealousies, but as one affecting the interests of the Dominion. Those who desire to paralyze our efforts seek to make it a local question; we must not play into their hands. I deem it but fair to say that we have always had the good will and concurrence of the members of the adjoining counties, and if we adopt a course calculated to awaken the people generally to the importance of the issue now before us, we may safely reckon upon the Government of the Dominion doing us justice. (Applause.)

Mr. DESJARDINS, M.P., Hochelaga, said:—I have not much to add, but I am glad to be present to answer the accusation brought against neighboring members of Parliament, that we are indifferent to the interests of the city of Montreal. That is not precisely the case. For one, I have often complained that the citizens, representing large interests of the city of Montreal, do not avail themselves more than they have of the services of members representing the outlying counties. The first news I often get of a deputation going to Ottawa to urge an important question on the Government, is when I see it in the papers the next morning. The fact is that, in my opinion, the citizens of Montreal have been too self-reliant; while they have seen the people of other centres of commerce looking to the Government for the public works required