

To the Editor of the Daily News.

MONTREAL, 25th March, 1868.

SIR,—I am happy to find that the St. Louis Hydraulic Company's charter is attracting public attention. Montreal is deeply interested in this matter, and the citizens should at once petition for the Royal assent to the bill. Why the most important measure passed by the Quebec Legislature should have been reserved, is mysterious.

Was it because the dam proposed by this company would have made one of the most dangerous rapids on the St. Lawrence a safe and navigable channel at all seasons, from the quantity of water which would have been thrown into it, or was it because their works would in a few years have doubled the population of Montreal, and increased the value of property on the island far beyond the expectation of the most sanguine? Or it may have been from a desire to prevent the thousands of people who leave Lower Canada every fall from finding that employment at home which they are compelled to seek during the winter months in the United States. It must have been from some such reasons, for no good one could be assigned.

We have, unfortunately, in Lower Canada many people who know nothing, see nothing, and cannot be made to comprehend anything; who have acquired a little property, but have not the intelligence to encourage any enterprise that would improve it, and who are always ready to oppose any undertaking from which their neighbors might derive any benefit, although they might be losers from such opposition. It is to this class that the backward condition of Lower Canada may be traced.

However annoying such a state of things may have been, they were endurable with no taxation, and the large amount of Imperial money which annually flowed into the country for the payment of troops, &c.; but times are about to change, and we shall soon be thrown upon our own resources. Then we shall soon discover the value of such works as those of the Hydraulic Company, and the fact that they would be cheap to Montreal at any price.

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S LEGGE,
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