

Lachine Canal pours into the harbour of Montreal a very large stream of water which is constantly flowing through, and to contend that because a sewer debouches into a stillwater eddy and creates a nuisance there which is due to the improvements, is all nonsense. It is like the old story of the Emperor of China, who was nearly roasted to death before it was discovered that he could be relieved by moving back his chair instead of removing the fire from in front of him. The fact is, the citizens of Montreal are in duty bound to carry that sewer elsewhere. Any attempt whatever to induce the belief that the harbour of Montreal is prejudicially affected, from a sanitary point of view, by reason of the improvements is in my opinion nonsense. Besides, it is not affected by this bill at all.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—If I understand the hon. gentleman's remarks the city of Montreal ought to extend this sewer.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—Yes.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Then the hon. gentleman admits, if it is necessary to extend it, that there is something wrong with that basin.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—What I maintain is that the recent improvements have in no degree whatever affected the position of things in existence for many years, and that any attempt to connect the nuisance with the improvements is nonsense, and that the sanitary condition can be ameliorated by the simple expedient of taking that sewer from the inside of the basin to another point.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Very well; the question was this: formerly, before these improvements were made, it was not healthy. The city water was not wholesome, and it should be improved. I think the hon. gentleman is using rather hard words when he says it is all nonsense, after one of our best physicians in Montreal has said that the sanitary conditions are bad. Although there is nothing before the Senate, I take the opportunity to speak about this question. It seems to me the government ought, in the interest of the whole country, to inquire if these waters are really in such a bad condition, because if Montreal becomes infected with typhoid fever, it will infect

the whole country. I repeat, it seems to me the government ought to issue a commission to ascertain if these waters are contaminated by the sewage of the city of Montreal. I do not enter into the question as to whether the city of Montreal or the Harbour Commissioners should make the extension of the canal, but the hon. gentleman cannot deny, after what was read to us by the hon. Senator from Victoria, that there is some danger at least, and that danger was put before us by able men. I cannot admit that the word "nonsense" is applicable to this case.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—I should like to inform hon. gentlemen that during last summer the condition of the water was very exceptional—it was exceedingly low all summer. A great many rocks in front of the city were dry and exposed to the sun—rocks which for many seasons were covered by the water. The result was a slight alteration of the current, but I contend that the condition of things has not been prejudicially affected by the construction of those harbour works, and if there is an unsanitary condition in that immediate part of the harbour, it could be remedied in a simple way.

Hon. Mr. VILLENEUVE—I have occupied a seat on the Harbour Commission for eight years, and last year was the only year that there was a complaint that the condition of the water was injurious to public health. As the hon. gentleman has just mentioned, the water last year was the lowest in the memory of any citizen of Montreal. The Allan line people were very near where the sewer came into the river, and they found that there was a bad smell and that the water was very bad, and they complained of it. I think that those who have a right to complain are the provincial board of health. They examined, and they found out that those sewers should be extended further into the current, and I believe the city will be obliged to do it, very likely this year if the water is as low as it was last year. But I hope that we will not see such low water again for a long time. The provincial board of health of the city of Montreal have investigated the matter, and no doubt these complaints will be repeated; because the city and the provincial board of health will see that the water will not be contaminated by the