

### *Ship Labour, Port of Quebec.*

The Commissioners, being justly alarmed by the long existing restrictions put by the ship-labourers in the way of loading and unloading vessels in this Port, have resolved to take the matter into consideration with the view, if possible, of prevailing upon them to remove the restrictions complained of, and they have, in consequence, through their Secretary, addressed to the principal shippers of Montreal a circular worded as follows :

" I am directed by the Harbour Commissioners to ask you  
 " if you would kindly advise them as to the difficulties that  
 " exist in your sending your Steamers down to load in Quebec.  
 " Will you please write them what drawbacks there are to your  
 " Steamers taking either timber or deals in Quebec as compared  
 " to Montreal. It is the Commissioners desire to have all  
 " restrictions removed and, if possible, to induce the ship-labour-  
 " ers to amend their By-Laws so that it will give the facilities  
 " that you may need."

With the exception of one, in which the firm state that they are not conversant with the difficulties, all the answers received convey the most severe condemnation of the labourers' action in persisting to enforce rules so contrary to the welfare of our Port and unavoidably tending to its ruin.

It is to be hoped that they will realize the situation and take the means of having an understanding with the shipping interests in order to place this Port, in reference to the cost of labour, on the same footing with the Port of Montreal.

The Commissioners have also taken means for defining their legal position in the matter, and they have, for that purpose, directed their Solicitor to report on their power to remove the difficulties that exist from the action of the ship-labourers. A copy of his report is annexed to the present one.

### *Repairs to Property.*

All the property under the control of the Commissioners has been kept in a thorough state of order. The two wharves, the Pointe-à-Carcy and East India wharves, previously reported as much in need of repairs, have not yet been repaired on account of the depressed condition of the revenue of the Commission.

If the revenue of the coming season can warrant such an expenditure the Commissioners will not fail to undertake the repairs of one of those two wharves.

In order to facilitate the storing of goods many important improvements have been made in the interior of the two large Stores on Pointe-à-Carcy wharf. The hoisting apparatus of one