

of the ballast ground comparatively unavailable. In his evident anxiety to aid in the sale of certain wharves the very able writer of the letter referred to, has altogether overlooked *this small matter of the ballast*, a subject however of more real importance to the welfare of the Port than the purchase of all the river frontage.

In the construction of wharves one important item is the filling ; in the case of the three piers proposed to be constructed from those already in existence, there is no opportunity for utilising the ballast as the piers must be completed without the delay and interruption to trade which ships discharging ballast necessarily cause—and even if any number of ships could by any possibility be brought alongside, the piers would not absorb one years supply,—and after all some other means would have to be found for getting rid of it. In the case of the proposed improvements below the Custom House (be it remembered « on the St. Lawrence » and not « up the St. Charles » ) preparation is made for taking the ballast and rendering that which is now actually injurious, a source of profit and a mean of increasing the capacity and importance of the Port—this will offer a receptacle for the ballast for many years to come, that would not take one years supply, where it possible even to get the ships to the piers. The scheme of experimentalising on a small scale, as the result has shewn, was erroneous thirty years ago—what would such a line of conduct appear to the world in 1861.

Already the « myth » facetiously so termed, is at our doors, and we have no means of accommodating the first proposed instalment of the Western trade, men of energy and intelligence are amongst us offering a share of this « mythical trade, » and we cannot embrace it, and why? simply because we have no piers elevators or warehouses, « no secondary matters » in fact, and no energy or enterprise amongst us to commence their preparation even at this eleventh hour.

It does not require a prophets eye to foresee or a prophets pen to describe what the result must inevitably be—if Quebec