

RE-ELECTION OF THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
HARBOUR COMMISSION.

Mr. Hugh McLennan's term of office as representative of this Board on the Board of Harbour Commissioners expired on 1st August, on which day, in accordance with the provisions of "The Montreal Harbour Commissioners' Act, 1894," a special general meeting of the Board was held at which Mr. McLennan was unanimously re-elected to the office for the four years ending 1st August, 1898.

CANAL TOLLS ON WESTERN-BOUND FREIGHT.

This subject was discussed by the Council and referred to its Committee on Harbour Improvement and Inland Navigation, which invited representatives of the various ocean and inland vessel lines to a meeting for its consideration. As a result of that meeting, the following representations were made by the Council to the Minister of Railways and Canals:—

THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE,
Montreal March 24th, 1894.

To the Hon. John Haggart,

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS, OTTAWA.

SIR,—The Board of Trade has frequently urged the Government to adopt a policy of free navigation, *i. e.*, the opening of the canals, harbours and other waters of the Dominion, free of all tolls and governmental dues of any kind, and I have now the honour of informing you that, at the recent annual meeting of the Board, the Council was specially charged with the duty of again pressing this question upon the attention of the Government.

The Council therefore submits that, in view of the fact that free navigation is granted by the Federal and State Governments of the United States over all the waterways with which the St. Lawrence route has to compete, that the producing, exporting and shipping interests of Canada ought to be put on as good a footing as similar interests in the United States.

But the Council is aware that the question of free navigation is a large and serious one with political bearings, and if for this reason immediate action in the direction it desires is not expedient, the Council would urge upon the Government the following amelioration of the present tariff of canal tolls:—

Lake Erie to Montreal.—The reduced rate to apply not only, as in last year's Order in Council dated 13th Feb., to wheat, Indian corn, peas, barley, rye, oats, daxseed and buckwheat, but also to flour and oatmeal.

St. Lawrence Canals.—Vessels to be free of tolls each way.