

sidering as their rights—and what they have used as such during the past 40 or 50 years—is subject to be taken from them at the mere whim of any party who may buy a small piece of land on the banks of the St. Lawrence above Lachine. The speakers at the meeting yesterday afternoon appeared like men who had discovered a serious flaw in what they usually considered the title deeds of their estate. The habit of mooring rafts to the shores of the St. Lawrence above Lachine had been practiced for so long a time that the people who owned the adjacent land, as well as the lumbermen, began to look upon this as an undoubted right. Latterly a good many persons from the city have bought land and erected houses on these shores. These persons having bought their places at a high price, on account of their proximity to the river, looked on the presence of rafts and raftsmen as anything but agreeable, as they were thereby shut off from free access to the river, on account of which they had paid so much for their land, and consequently complained of the rafts as being a nuisance. The lumbermen replied to all their complaints by saying that the custom of mooring rafts to these shores is much older than the title of the present proprietors of the adjacent land; consequently when these persons bought their land, they bought them subject to the raft nuisance.

The latter have discovered that whatever privileges the lumbermen may claim to using the beach or channel of the river while their timber is being brought to market, they have no right to make a public market of these places, and consequently have taken proceedings to compel the owners to remove their rafts. The lumbermen find themselves in a disagreeable predicament; they are ordered to remove their rafts, but there is no place provided where they can move them to, so they have got to remain—except as has been done in some instances, they are cut adrift, and allowed to go over the rapids.

They are about applying to the Harbour Commissioners for redress, but these latter cannot change the law, nor can they legislate away the rights of the land owners to free access to the river; nor yet can they furnish accommodation at present for the rafts elsewhere. It is quite evident that all parties will have to exercise considerable forbearance until suitable places be secured for keeping rafts at while waiting for sale.

There is a suitable bay above Pointe Claire where rafts might be kept, were it not for the swells caused by a westerly storm in