

MONTREAL, 12th November, 1880.

HON. H. L. LANGEVIN, C. B.,

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS,

OTTAWA.

SIR,

By instructions from the President of the Board of Trade, and the President of the Corn Exchange Association, I have the honor to transmit the joint reply of their respective Boards, to your letter of 28th June,—in which you were pleased to request answers to certain inquiries relating to Canal Tolls, Harbor Dues, &c. The communication is in four sections, viz.:

1. Statements relating to the Carrying Trade;—on pages 5 to 13 inclusive.
2. Replies in Detail to the Inquiries contained in your letter;—on pages 14 to 31 inclusive.
3. Additional Information;—on pages 32 to 42 inclusive.
4. Summary of Conclusions;—on pages 43 and 44.

It is regretted that so much time has elapsed before this joint answer could be presented; but it seemed to be essential that all particulars in any way bearing upon the subject should be succinctly laid before you, and in doing this, much more time has been occupied than was at first anticipated.

I am now to express to you the hope that the varied information submitted may enable you, in concert with your Colleague, the Minister of Railways and Canals, to present such recommendations to the Government, as will secure the speedy removal of all the burdens and disabilities which prevent the expansion of Canadian Commerce by the River St. Lawrence. If this shall be the result of your deliberations, you will be instrumental in conferring a great boon upon the Mercantile and Shipping interests, as well as upon the general trade of the whole country.

I am only further to suggest that, if you consider it desirable to have a few more copies of the appended document to enable you to furnish one to such of the Cabinet Ministers as may, along with yourself, wish to examine the details submitted,—I am directed by the Presidents to comply with any instruction from you in the matter.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. PATTERSON,

*Secretary, Board of Trade, and Corn Exchange Association.*