

the present season of navigation. The Minister replied as follows: "I have no doubt your Board cannot fail to understand that in matters of such importance I am not in a position to make statements before Council has adjudicated upon them. I hope everything will turn out all right, and that at last the harbour of Montreal will begin to be equipped according to modern ideas."

On 1st June the Council considered a resolution submitted by Mayor Prefontaine at the previous day's meeting of the Harbour Commission, which provided for the acceptance of a loan from the Government of \$2,000,000 at 3 per cent. interest, on condition that \$750,000 thereof be expended below Longueuil Ferry for the establishment of a dry dock, and the equipment of deep water wharves fitted for the construction of grain elevators, etc. Consideration of that resolution resulted in the adoption of the following, which was communicated to the Harbour Commissioners, the Premier, the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Trade and Commerce:—

That having considered the resolution offered by Mayor Prefontaine at yesterday's meeting of the Harbour Commissioners, the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade hereby records its dissent from that portion thereof which provides for the expenditure of a portion of the loan to be obtained from the Government upon the construction of dry docks, as, while greatly desiring the providing of that most necessary adjunct to the navigation facilities at this port, the Council is and has always been of the opinion that such should be erected as elsewhere by the Government at its own expense as a public work;

That the Council would still advocate very earnestly that the Government should consolidate the whole harbour debt at 3 per cent., and that the Government should now loan the Harbour Commissioners such further sums as they need at a rate not exceeding that figure, but the Council is emphatic in desiring that no expenditure of the Commissioners' funds should be made excepting upon the plan of harbour improvement approved by the Commissioners, and that, if any extension of the harbour eastwards becomes necessary to provide railway facilities, the Council would approve of such extension, provided it were recommended by the Harbour Commissioners.

The Minister of Public Works acknowledged that resolution by the following letter:—

GEORGE HADRILL, ESQ.,

Secretary Board of Trade,

Montreal.

OTTAWA, June 2nd, 1898.

MY DEAR MR. HADRILL,

I am in receipt of your telegram of to-day to the effect that the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade and the Committee of Management of the Corn Exchange Association