

clouds of disappointment are slowly, but I hope and believe surely, drifting away, and a goodly share of that "silver lining" which the people of this country have anxiously looked for and patiently awaited so long, is now visible.

The present Government at Ottawa, after carefully considering the practicability and value of these improvements, decided to proceed with the work, and obtained from Parliament a vote of \$150,000 for the commencement of operations. The completion of this work will involve an expenditure of probably four or five times this sum. No difficulty whatever should be encountered in obtaining the full sum required, as the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper—now leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons—in 1896 pledged the Government of Canada, of which he was then the leader, to at once commence this much-desired and necessary improvement. We are, therefore, singularly fortunate in the knowledge that both leaders are favorable to an early prosecution of this most important public work, which, it is now understood, will be pushed forward without further delay. I feel that I am not overstating the matter in saying that there is general regret that the low stage of water and the long, fine fall weather, so suitable for carrying on work of this character, was not taken advantage of earlier. However, it is gratifying to know that even a small commencement has been made and work actually under way.

VACANT LANDS.

The question of settling the vacant lands in the vicinity of the city continues to be a most important one, and while exceedingly good work has been done in the past, renewed and

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