

the Board of Trade, and the Mayor of the City for the time being. These two last named are frequently, indeed generally, elected to their several offices from amongst the citizens most actively engaged in business ; in addition to their own personal occupations they have to perform the duties of their especial office as President of Board of Trade, and Mayor of the city, and also the duty of Harbor Commissioners. They are elected with a view of their fitness or presumed fitness for their particular office, not because they are suitable for Harbor Commissioners, which very frequently they are not. With much attention and labour they may acquire an adequate knowledge of the duty of a Harbor Commissioner, and by the time they have done this their term of office has expired.

Perhaps a Board comprising three members, permanently appointed by Government, and four chosen by merchants and shipowners of Montreal (through the Board of Trade or otherwise), the last named four being elected for four years, one to retire every year, so as to give merchants an opportunity of choosing every year one having their confidence and representing their present views, might be the best constitution possible. But however chosen, it is the most important that all the Commissioners should be men practically acquainted with the commerce, the shipping and the Harbor of Montreal, and that at least a majority should be actually merchants largely engaged in managing shipping, or in the export or import trade.

Reply to Question 12th.—The Council would, if required, have much pleasure in communicating at greater length upon any of the subjects touched upon in the foregoing answers ; or give their views upon any other point that might be deemed worthy of consideration by the Honorable Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

OFFICE OF BOARD OF TRADE,

MONTREAL, November 20th, 1867.

SIR.—Referring to communication of 8th instant, I am now to transmit you the replies of the Council of Board of Trade, to the questions you were pleased to submit for their consideration, and am further to inform you, that it will afford pleasure to the Council to be of further service, at any time you may think proper to ask for information, or their opinion on matters connected with the prosperity of the Dominion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

W. J. PATTERSON,

Secretary.

Hon. P. Mitchell,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.