
while the broad beaches laid dry by every ebb serve as dressing grounds on which the timber is prepared for shipment.

The great demand for space for such a peculiar traffic will make coves more profitable than wharves; and, without expensive docks, a general commercial business cannot be carried on to the same advantage as in the undisturbed level of a tideless harbour like Montreal.

From Captain Bell's report it will be seen that a depth of sixteen and a half feet throughout may be attained for vessels ascending to Montreal in September, 1855, and one of eighteen feet in the same month of 1856, provided the south channels at Besancour and Verchères are lighted and buoyed.

The completion of the channel to a depth of twenty feet may be effected in 1857, but will not be delayed beyond the summer of 1858.

To Captain Bell's report, with respect to lights and buoys, I have nothing to add. On the completion of the deep channel, permanent instead of floating lights should be fixed in the Lake.

The requirements in the harbour of Montreal I propose to make the subject of a separate report as soon as the plans for the same are matured.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS C. KEEFER,
Engineer, Harbour Commissioners.