

perform; and in the absence of the rails it is a question how these extra goods could have been removed before ~~being overtaken by~~ the close of navigation. The rails since then have been extended as far as the Richelieu Pier; but it is intended to continue them down, next spring, as far as the ground is graded or Molson's wharf, and also put in a number of sidings, so that the same complaints as last year of the wharves being crowded, will not exist, and further, if the Commissioners decide on connecting the Molson wharf, the Ferry wharf, and the Hochelaga wharf, the three Railways can have a common terminus, and that the above, when constructed, I consider sufficient for the next 20 years, if we may judge by the past, and also by the following statement, which shows the number of arrivals and their tonnage for the last 11 years.

Statement of the arrivals and their tonnage for the last 11 years :—

YEAR.	VESSEL.	TONNAGE.	YEAR	VESSEL	TONNAGE.
1861	574	261,793	1866	516	205,775
1862	571	265,243	1867	464	199,053
1863	504	209,224	1868	478	198,759
1864	378	161,901	1869	557	259,863
1865	358	152,943	1870	680	316,846
			1871	664	353,621

From the above it will be seen that the Commissioners must proceed with caution in any schemes for Harbour extension, as with the exception of the last 2 years, the business of the Port has comparatively been at a stand still.

Submitting the whole for their consideration,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most ob'dt servant,

A. G. NISH,

Engineer Harbour Commissioners.