

namely sheltered berths with sufficiently deep water, of easy access, and so constructed as not to interfere with the navigation of the river, has been formed and is now before the public. This scheme contemplates the improvement and enlargement of the Harbour or Port of Quebec, in that portion of it at present *unoccupied and unproductive*, by providing a basin of nearly 12 acres in extent surrounded by a wharf or piers, in 22 feet depth of water, sheltered from the prevailing winds, of easy access at all times of tide, with a pier in the middle on which elevators and warehouses would be constructed and where cargoes could be landed and transferred at all times, this scheme provides a wharfage of 2925 feet in length, and not being affected by the current allows of outside or stage berths, supplying berths for 16 large ships, 4 large propellers and many smaller berths for light craft.

This work can be executed for less than two thirds of the former scheme, being in shallower water, more accessible, already the property of the Commission and permitting of a much more simple method of construction, in addition to which it provides for the reception of ships ballast and allows of the formation of ballast berths which no other scheme can supply.

The question of what is to be done with the ballast annually brought to this Port, is one which must be speedily settled. During the last 30 years the bottom of the river at the ballast ground has been raised 43 feet and this process is going on at the rate of eighteen inches per year, as we are informed on the authority of the Admiralty Surveyor, Capt. Orlebar, R. N. If the Commissioners of the Harbour do not take this matter up, the British Government will be compelled to do so for neglect will be attended with results of a character altogether so important as to render such a step absolutely necessary. For twenty years past the average annual deposit has amounted to the enormous quantity of 220,000 tons, and this as is well known has already caused great inconvenience—to the extent of rendering one of the most valuable properties in the vicinity