

and I have seen the cabmen get hold of the springing line and walk on the sawdust between the vessel and the wharf. We used to lie in there in the winter with the steamers, but we found the sawdust had so filled up the bay, that we have had to leave the wharf and take the risk of the ice out in the stream.

Q. Did you not, at one time, lay up your steamers in Mackay's Bay? A. Above Mackay's Bay, in New Edinburgh Bay.

Q. Is there much risk of ice where you have to lie up? A. Yes.

Q. The bays of the river are completely destroyed as winter quarters for steamers? A. Yes.

*By Honorable Mr. Clemow :*

Q. Have you seen any of those explosions in the river that are spoken of by other witnesses? A. Yes, from L'Original to Ottawa.

Q. Have you found any inconvenience from them? A. The odour arising from them is not very pleasant round the steamer lying at a wharf. There is a strong, gassy smell from them.

Q. Is it unwholesome? A. I presume so.

Q. Some observations have been made here about vessels carrying smaller cargoes in years gone by than they do at present. I suppose you can give the Committee an idea why it is so? A. The vessels that carry double the quantity of lumber now that they did in former years have different bearings and different beams, but they do not draw any more water. At that time, when you were steamboating, and when I first came up the Ottawa you could not get a barge measuring over 90 feet through the Grenville Canal.

Q. Do you recollect in the early days about the fishing on this river? A. I do not recollect much about it.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. What in your opinion will be the condition of the river at some future period, say ten or twenty years hence, if this practice of throwing in mill refuse is continued? A. We would have no river at all.

Q. When the bays become filled, is it probable that the channel will also fill up? A. That is my impression, it must fill. For instance, I have paid particular attention to Templeton wharf last fall. Below the wharf I can show any gentleman on the Committee at any time during low water, where you will find a layer of sand 5 or 6 inches, then a layer of sawdust 5 or 6 inches, then sand again, and so on continuously to the level of the original bottom of the river.

*By Mr. Christie :*

Q. You say you can find sawdust in the channel there at low water? A. Yes.

Q. Is that sawdust not carried away when the water is high? A. I presume some of it must be carried away, but it cannot possibly be all carried away if it is covered up with the silt that comes down from the small rivers.

Q. If soundings were made now in the channel in the high water, would you be able to find sawdust in the bottom? A. I am not prepared to state that, but I presume you would.

Q. As a matter of fact you do not know? A. No, I have not tried it. In low water is the time to judge, and find whether sawdust is deposited in the channel. When the current is running six or seven miles an hour the sawdust is floating. I can take you down now and turn up sawdust in the channel, but whether it is the sawdust of former years or sawdust of the present year, I am not prepared to say.

Q. Would not a test at high water when the current is swift be the best way to determine whether the sawdust remains in the channel? A. I think not, and I will tell you why: In the low water there is always a certain amount of silt coming down the smaller streams, particularly down the Gatineau and Blanche. At the head of this shoal at the Blanche River there are two little outlets, therefore if in low water this sand and gravel or silt coming down these streams it must settle on that sawdust, because there is no current. It is almost dead water in September and October on that shoal.

Q. The question is can you say whether the spring freshet does not carry away