

cribwork and concrete foundation with a masonry superstructure is being constructed with a preliminary channel way of 150 feet in width, 1,250 feet in length of which is to be dredged to a depth of 24 feet at low water, and the remaining 2,160 feet to a depth of 10 feet at low water—there being a rise and fall of 18 feet at spring and 13 feet at neap tides respectively. With these works alone completed, upwards of one mile of continuous wharf accommodation, communicating with the shore, will be added to the port of Quebec. The first section of quay wall, 1,250 feet in length, forms one side of the enclosed area of the tidal basin on the south side, and the 2,160 feet of the second section forms one side of the enclosed area of the wet dock—the whole containing an entire water area of 60 acres. Work was begun under this contract in May, 1877, and was continued to the close of November, when the weather put an end to it for the season. During this period the outer line of low cribwork at the western end, was trenched in across the southern channel of the St. Charles, which, when filled with dredge material from the trenches forming the excavation for the foundation of the quay walls of the Tidal Basin, completely diverted the low water current of the river, as was naturally expected by the engineers. At the eastern end of the works, larger crib-work was constructed and laid in position, closing the low water tidal ingress and egress at this point; 120 feet of this latter crib-work was laid on an even bed previously dredged to a depth of 16 feet below low water mark. Early in May last operations *in situ* were resumed and continued again until the close of November, when the last of the high tides had to be taken advantage of for getting the contractors' plant into winter quarters. During the working season thus closed, the excavating and dredging have, considering the difficulties encountered, been carried on with great success. The construction of the deep crib-work caissons for the reception of the concrete used in the