

The same day on which the above letter was written the Rules were publicly announced and explained at a meeting of the Harbour Commissioners by Mr. Thomas Cramp, Chairman of the Elevator Committee, in the following words :

The first thing that occurs among our Records of public interest is the question of the Rules to regulate the employment of Steam Elevators in the Harbour of Montreal. The recommendation of a special committee appointed to consider the matter is this—formulating a rule to govern the matter hereafter.—When two out of three of the parties interested in grain being elevated, present the Harbour Master with a written order, then that officer is to act accordingly ; but in no case is an Elevator to be allowed to go alongside a vessel until these questions shall first have been settled. It will be noticed that the Rule is here laid down that before any of the Elevators have taken up a position, it is necessary to have a permit from the Harbour Master.

I trust the Council will carefully note the Rules here fully stated and explained. It will be clearly seen from the facts which follow, that these regulations have not been fairly administered, but have been enforced and set aside as the occasion required, with the result I have stated.

The part of the Rule requiring orders "*in writing*" was never before a Rule or Custom in this Harbour, it must have been clear when made that the result would be to injure the Company I represent, and it has nearly always been enforced against us. On the other hand, that part of the Rule which afforded some protection to us, and which ever since it was announced, has been set aside by the Harbour Commissioners, was a regulation applying more clearly and specially to Elevators, the general Rules already adopted in the Harbour By-Laws, which a month previous were submitted to and approved by his Excellency the Governor General in Council, these By-Laws enact :

(Article 11.) And no vessel shall take up or occupy any berth in the said Harbour unless such berth shall have been assigned to her by the Harbour Master.

(Article 18.) All vessels in the said Harbour shall be under the control of the Harbour Master so far as regards their position, mooring, etc.

(Article 126.) The word "Vessel" when made use of in the foregoing regulations is to be understood as comprehending and meaning Rafts and every description of floating vessel.

It is manifest then that the power of assigning positions to Elevators in the Harbour belongs to the Harbour Commissioners. That all Elevators in the Harbour are under their control, so far as regards the position these vessels take, and that no Elevator can lawfully take a position except