

**REPORTS ON THE MEANS OF
IMPROVING THE PRESENT HARBOUR
AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF DOCKS AT
MONTREAL, A REPLY TO THE SAME, IN A
LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE HARBOUR
COMMISSIONERS; PP.1-127**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649691968

Reports on the Means of Improving the Present Harbour and the Construction of Docks at Montreal, a Reply to the Same, in a Letter Addressed to the Harbour Commissioners; pp.1-127
by John C. Trautwine & John Young

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN C. TRAUTWINE & JOHN YOUNG

**REPORTS ON THE MEANS OF
IMPROVING THE PRESENT HARBOUR
AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF DOCKS AT
MONTREAL, A REPLY TO THE SAME, IN A
LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE HARBOUR
COMMISSIONERS; PP.1-127**

REPORTS

ON THE

MEANS OF IMPROVING THE PRESENT HARBOUR

AND THE

CONSTRUCTION OF DOCKS AT MONTREAL,

BY JOHN C^o ^{of Phila.} TRAUTWINE, Esq., C. E.
OF PHILADELPHIA.

ALSO,

A REPLY TO THE SAME, IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
THE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS,

BY THE HON. JOHN YOUNG.

Montreal:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.
1859.

LETTER

Of Instructions, signed respectively by the Chairman of the Harbour Commissioners and the Chairman of a Committee of Citizens on Harbour improvement, handed to Mr. TRAUTWINE, on his undertaking the duty of examining into and reporting upon Dock and Harbour accommodation.

MONTREAL, 15th July, 1858.

JOHN C. TRAUTWINE, Esq.,
Civil Engineer.

SIR,—

We have the honor to convey to you the views which the Harbour Commissioners, acting in concert with a Committee of Citizens, have adopted as a guide for you in the investigations which you have undertaken to make on the subject of Harbour improvement and of Dock accommodation in this city.

It may be well to inform you that the citizens have been much divided in opinion upon these questions—especially upon that of Docks; and that two projects have been very prominently before the public—the one favoring Hochelaga Bay and the other Point St. Charles, as a site for Docks.

On the subject of improving and extending the present Harbour, a general desire seems prevalent to accomplish that object, and any difference of opinion which now exists on that point is simply as to the plan to be adopted, and the cost which it may

be prudent to incur. On the subject of Docks, in the course of the discussions which have taken place, a third project was started, indicating a site on the city side of the Lachine Canal, which was considered more easy of access for the business of the city than either Hochelaga Bay or Point St. Charles.

As this site seemed likely to unite conflicting opinions, and found favor to a great extent among the citizens, the Harbour Commissioners invited the proposers of it to a conference, at which several of the citizens were present, and at which the following resolution was agreed to:—"That the following Committee, viz., Wm. Workman, John Redpath, Henry Bulmer, Wm. Parkyns, John Ostell, A. M. Delisle, and Thomas Ryan, be empowered to select an engineer to survey and take the levels of the ground lying between the present Harbour and the north bank of the Lachine Canal and St. Joseph Street, or such part thereof as the Committee may determine on, in order that such levels may be laid by them as soon as possible before a chief engineer or engineers, to be named by said Committee and approved of by the Harbour Commissioners, which engineer or engineers shall ascertain what facilities are afforded on the north or city side of the Lachine Canal for the construction of Docks and Warehouses, and the expense thereof, and shall also confer with the Harbour Commissioners, and the said Committee, as to the extent to which the present Harbour can be improved, and the expense thereof, and shall report upon the whole subject."

In pursuance of this resolution, your name was suggested by the Committee, and was approved of by the Harbour Commissioners, and you will accordingly undertake the duties prescribed in the resolution.

These, you will perceive, are twofold,—

1st, To examine and report upon the site which for convenience we will call the "Central" site for Docks;

2d, To confer with the Harbour Commissioners and the Committee, and report on the subject of Harbour improvement.

Commencing with the question of Harbour improvement, we beg to hand you sundry reports, plans, estimates, soundings, &c.,

&c., enumerated in the Appendix attached to this letter. Amongst these you will find a plan marked No. 1, E, and an estimate marked No. 1, F, prepared by Mr. M^cQuestin on the information derived from the engineer of the Harbour Trust, and the data furnished him by the kindness of the Harbour Commissioners.

After perusal of these papers, maps, &c., and a personal examination of the Harbour, we have to request your opinion as to the manner in which you consider it can best be extended and improved, keeping in view the cost, and the actual as well as prospective requirements of the trade of this port.

Coming to the question of Dock accommodation, the Committee, in order to facilitate your operations, have employed Mr. M^cQuestin to survey and plot the ground indicated in the foregoing resolution, and to take the levels, which have been checked by Mr. Forsyth, engineer of the Harbour Trust; and we hand you Mr. M^cQuestin's plan, marked No. 1, G, which comprises the area to which your special investigations will be directed, and the services of Mr. M^cQuestin and Mr. Forsyth are at your disposal for any explanations or further details you may require from them.

On this plan, and in connexion with the Lachine Canal, you will notice a large extent of land about 28 acres, the property of Government.

If, as it is hoped by the Committee, the Government may be induced to make the proposed Docks a portion of the public works in that vicinity, the cost of construction in that case would not become chargeable on the Harbour, but would be more generally distributed over the general commerce of the country, than if undertaken as a local work.

Two modes of approach for sea-going vessels to the site in question are exhibited on the plan—one through the property of the Grey Nunnery and of the Seminary of Montreal; the other by means of a new lock of increased dimensions connecting the Harbour with the present Canal Basins. But you are requested not to confine your examinations to these approaches alone should any other more eligible occur to you.

The cost of the land by the Grey Nunnery approach will present an item for your serious consideration, independent of any

question of engineering; and on this point of cost full information will be obtained for you.

The important object aimed at by constructing Docks and affording increased Harbour accommodation for large vessels, is to attract to the St. Lawrence route a greater share of the trade of the West than has hitherto passed through that channel; and the facilities to be obtained must be such as will enable lake and sea-going vessels to meet and exchange cargoes with expedition and economy, and such as will also afford sufficient berth room in the Harbour for ocean steamers of the largest capacity and draught, now running to this port.

It will be your duty to examine and report upon the facilities to be afforded within the limits of the accompanying plan and its vicinity, for the construction of Docks upon such a scale as you may deem requisite to ensure the objects already alluded to; bearing in mind that your estimates of the cost must exercise a material influence on the policy to be pursued in the selection of a site for Docks.

In the Appendix you will find included, the reports, plans, &c., &c., of the other sites which have been proposed for Docks, upon which you will make such observations as you may deem necessary or applicable in regard to their comparative merits, and finally, after consideration of the whole subject, give your opinion in writing as to the best course to be pursued for providing Docks and Harbour accommodation.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN YOUNG,

Chairman Harbour Commissioners.

THOMAS RYAN,

Chairman of Committee.

APPENDIX.

List of Reports, Plans, Estimates, Soundings, Letters, and other documents, handed to Mr. TRAUTWINE, and referred to in the foregoing joint letter of instructions handed to him by the Harbour Commissioners and the Committee on Harbour improvement.

1. Report of Board of Engineers and Provincial Geologist on survey of Lake St. Peter, in October, 1850.
2. Pamphlet relating to the deepening of the ship channel through Lake St. Peter, published February, 1853, with the sanction of the Government.
3. Pamphlet containing a report of the affairs of the Harbour Commissioners in 1854, and the deepening of the ship channel.
4. Letter of THOMAS C. KESSEB, dated 14th January, 1854, to the Commissioners in reference to Harbour improvement.
5. Report of Mr. YOUNG, Chairman of the Harbour Commissioners, on the subject of improving and enlarging the Harbour, dated 29th November, 1853.
6. Letters in pamphlet form to the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, and the Citizens of Montreal, on Canadian trade and the commerce of this city, by Mr. YOUNG, Chairman of the Harbour Trust, dated December, 1855.
7. Letter of Mr. YOUNG, dated 23rd April, 1857, on the improvement of the lake and river navigation, and the construction of a new Harbour.
8. Report of a Board of Engineers appointed to examine and report upon the improvement of the Harbour of Montreal, and the Trade and navigation of the St. Lawrence, consisting of Messrs. JOHN CHILDE, W. J. M'ALPINE, and JAMES P. KIRKWOOD, dated 24th March, 1858, with appendix. This report is accompanied by maps and plans, showing sites for Docks at Hochelaga Bay and Point St. Charles.

9. Letter of the Harbour Commissioners to the Provincial Secretary, dated 26th June, 1858, on proposed improvements in the Harbour of Montreal.
10. Resolution of the Board of Trade and their petition to the Legislature, dated 29th June, 1858, in regard to an act to provide for the improvement of the Harbour of Montreal.
11. Letter of Mr. YOUNG to the Inspector General, dated 5th March 1856, on the enlargement of the Harbour of Montreal.
12. Report of Messrs. GZOWSKI and KLEPFA, Civil Engineers, on the proposed enlargement of the Harbour of Montreal, dated 28th January, 1853.
13. Wilson's review, in pamphlet form, of the Trade and Commerce of Montreal for 1857.
14. The Government returns of Trade and Commerce for 1857.