

OTTAWA BOARD OF TRADE TO HELP SHORTEN WINTER AND PROLONG SUMMER ?

Editor Journal,—During the past session of Parliament the following notice of motion appeared on the order paper of the House of Commons, but was not reached previous to prorogation, and will likely be re-introduced during the present session:

Mr. Lewis—Proposed Resolution—That, whereas the polar current causing ice and icebergs to flow into the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the Straits of Belle Isle, tend to produce fogs in said gulf and to retard spring and hasten winter along the shores of said gulf; and whereas, the said straits are under ten miles wide in the narrowest part, the depth of water in this part being under 35 fathoms, and that only in a small part of the channel; and whereas, the shore of said straits being composed of rocks easy to be quarried, in the opinion of this House, the said straits should be so closed as to prevent the inflow of ice and icebergs, but not so as to retard the passage of vessels in and out; and that for such purpose the labor of criminals, tramps who will not work, and the alien enemies while interned, be utilized for such purpose.

About forty years ago, it was proposed to close these straits and run a line of railway to St. John's, Newfoundland, to connect with ocean steamers and thus reduce the trip across the Atlantic, but for some reason it was never carried out. The engineers, who at the time reported favorably on the feasibility of the proposition, stated if these straits were closed it would have the effect of lengthening the summer and shortening the winter and that the climate of Eastern Canada especially would be so changed as to be of incalculable benefit.

It is suggested that the Ottawa Board of Trade help to push this matter through as the climate of Ottawa and district would be so affected that even greater advantage would result than from the proposed Georgian Bay canal, much as the latter is desired.

PROGRESS.