

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

or inclined planes on a simple principle at these places would give all the facility wanted to insure the arrival of the great bulk of the Timber in Quebec market not only at a safe season in respect to the weather, but also at a more favourable period for its disposal. But if it is not done soon the price of the timber must rise and the Trade diminish, for the timber which is most easy of access is getting scarce and the lumberers cannot at the present prices afford to go further for it without more convenience is given them in bringing it to market.

Partial improvements would also be necessary in the tributary rivers of the Ottawa, such as the Bonnechere, the Madawaska, &c., from which large quantites of the timber is procured.

A branch from the Rideau Canal to the Chaudière Lake has been surveyed and reported on and it was ascertained that it could be carried by the line described of about five miles in length through a bed of clay (avoiding any rock excavation) and that the lockage necessary would not exceed fifteen feet.

It would give the Chaudière Lake and the other upper parts of the Ottawa, the benefit of the Rideau Canal, and consequently uninterrupted water communication to Montreal, besides forming direct and ready access to Kingston from that part of the country. It would also be of great consequence to the lumber trade in reducing the expense of the carriage of provisions from Montreal, Kingston, &c.

For all these important purposes, I humbly think that an appropriation of one-third of the revenue arising from the Crown timber would be sufficient.

When the Crown prices were fixed the rate in the market of Quebec, was no doubt higher than it now is. The fall in the price may be attributed to two causes, one of which I consider a very beneficial one, and will continue I trust to keep the prices moderate.

I allude to that regularity in the trade which the system adopted by Government has introduced. The other cause of the reduction is a gradual increase of the trade until it has exceeded the demand for the article in the Quebec Market. But I am persuaded that if the necessary facilities of conveyance were afforded that the lumberers could furnish it at the present prices, low as they are, with profit which would soon induce a greater demand from home and a consequent increase of the revenue from the Crown Timber in this country.

CHAS. SHIRREFF.

YORK, December 21, 1831.
(Series Q. vol. 374.2 p. 291.)

On receipt of Sir John Colborne's letter, with the proposals of Mr. Shirreff, the Lords of the Treasury expressed no objection to the works suggested being executed, but stated that the report of the amount to be expended was far too vague and indefinite to warrant their sanction being given. The expense, the time to be spent on the work, and all other necessary information were to be sent for the consideration of their Lordships before an official decision could be arrived at. In January, 1834, the Board of Ordnance reported that the formation of timber slides at the falls of the Châts and Chaudière would be productive of all the advantages stated by Sir John Colborne and would not interfere with the Rideau Canal. The slides, therefore, might be constructed by the provincial government and placed under its control. This was the nearest approach to an answer to the question whether a charter might be granted to individuals to construct the slides, no notice, so far as the records show having been taken by the Lords of the Treasury or other officials of the action of Lord Dalhousie, although the following letter written by His Lordship to Sir Peregrine Maitland, dated 26th September, 1826, shows that Lord Dalhousie, as Governor General, not only approved of the plan of secur-