

The Books, Accounts of Disbursements and Vouchers, from 1st January were examined and approved.

The Resident Engineer submitted the estimate for the past month, which was ordered to be paid.

The Resident Engineer submitted a report on the state of the works for April, and verbally reported that he had nothing important to append for the present month. The Report was read as follows:

Cornwall, April 12, 1836.

To JONAS JONES, Esquire, &c.

SIR,

About the time of my Report in January, much of the work at excavation and embankment was suspended, since which time little has been done except on Section No. 1, where there has been for the last three months an average probably of 250 men. Upon several other sections there has been small forces continued, amounting in all to near 400 men since January. The season has been very much against doing anything upon the Canal, or towards its prosecution, except the procuring and delivering materials, for which purposes I believe the season has been unusually long and favorable, and I believe it has been well improved for these purposes. The Contractors for mechanical works, particularly the locks, are in very favorable circumstances for a prompt and the best use of the ensuing season, and are now waiting only for the dissolution of the snow and ice, and for more confirmed mild weather. The estimate for the last month is herewith presented in detail. The following are several particulars of business for the consideration of the Board on this occasion:

- 1st. Engineer Department Accounts.
- 2d. Section No. 1; previously reported.
- 3d. Section No. 3; upon which I can more intelligibly report verbally.
- 4th. Section No. 4.

Relating to the above items of business there are some specifications to which I will beg leave to call your attention at the instant. Some business not noticed above will be presented by letter and otherwise.

I have the honor to be, &c.

J. B. MILLS.

The Agent submitted a report on the state of the works and relating to claims, which was read as follows:

Cornwall, April 12, 1836.

GENTLEMEN,

In a season like the past, the severity of which has not been equalled, I believe, for many years, but few points have offered upon the line of the Canal where excavation could be performed, and in those places the frost penetrated so deep that it was with difficulty, and at a very great disadvantage to the Contractors, that the work could proceed, consequently but little of that description has been effected. Operations have been continued more or less upon Sections 1, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 22; the number of hands so employed for the last four months would average about 400, of which 250 were engaged upon Section No. 1.

The quantity of snow, the intensity and duration of the frost, so adverse to contractors for sections, proved highly beneficial to those for masonry—the greatest part of the stone for locks has been brought in from the quarries, therefore when the weather becomes favorable that work will rapidly advance. I do not think the Contractor for the Cornwall sewer has made the progress we could have wished.

With respect to persons claiming a remuneration for damage sustained by the Canal, those to whom my attention was particularly called, were,—1st. Messrs. McDonell & Holmes, for a property at the Long Sault. In December last, I received the accompanying letter (No. 1.) from Mr. Alexander McLean, their agent, claiming payment for the land taken for the Canal and road, for a mill site, for several leases said to have been given up in consequence of the ground having been occupied by the works, and for several acres of wood cut by directions of the Engineer. In company with Mr. Keefer, I went to examine the premises, and ascertained that there are about 22 acres of land, including the King's highway and all south of it. There has been nearly 42 acres of wood destroyed;—some of this was necessarily cut in procuring stones for the work upon Section No. 1, and the proprietors having been told that the whole of it would probably be cleared in the progress of that work were prevented placing persons to protect it. Upon those grounds they undoubtedly have a claim, but their opinion of its value is, I think, very erroneous, it being nearly all a young growth of black Ash and Pine, with very little either as timber or fuel. I have offered Mr. McLean £372 for the

whole damage, with the exception of buildings, for which, if any were destroyed or required moving, they were to have an extra claim. It was also stipulated that if the land measured more than 22 acres, they should be paid at the rate of £15 per acre; and if less, a proportional reduction should be made.

Mr. McLean wrote to his friends in Montreal, and in March last I received the letter (No. 2.) inclosing one from Messrs. McDonell & Holmes rejecting my offer. My present view of the matter is, that the land in question is of very bad quality,—the Canal and road will not require one half of the 22 acres spoken of—it was proposed to take all the land south of the road, more for the sake of facilitating an arrangement with the proprietors, than that it was thought necessary for the work. Now, we have paid but £15 per acre for land of the best description in good cultivation; I would therefore say we might safely let the question stand over till the work is finished, and then by paying only for the quantity actually occupied, which is all that is required, I do not think it will amount to the sum I have offered.

At Moulinette, (Section No. 6,) it has been found necessary to move Mrs. Millross's house. It appears that in the last arrangement made with her by Mr. Shaver, she was allowed £75 on account of damage to her house, which I think should be deducted from her present claim. I have calculated that it will take £150 to move her, and place her as comfortably as she was when the work commenced. I therefore offered her £75, which she refused, afterwards considering she was a widow, and could not work herself, but must hire hands, I said I would recommend the Board to give her £100, but she said she would not take it.

The Engineer informed me that it would be necessary immediately to make a road from the highway down to Lock No. 3, in order to carry on the work. I therefore agreed on the part of the Board to give Mr. Smith £10 for fencing a road through his land, and allowing us to use it for two years—if it is required longer he is to receive £1 per annum. I also offered him 25s. per acre for his meadow occupied with Lock materials, but we did not agree.

Mr. Mills furnished me with a bill of the timber necessary for the Lock foundations: agreeably to resolution of the Board I immediately advertised for tenders, which I received; but as the price asked was higher than that given last year, and at which the Board was much dissatisfied, I did not decide the matter till I had further orders. Much of the timber procured last winter for piles not being required, and observing that the people were burning them, I thought it well to dispose of them for whatever they would bring, and therefore advertised and sold them by auction—they brought thirty-five shillings per hundred piles.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
W. R. F. BERFORD.  
Agent.

Ordered, That the sum of ten pounds be paid to Mr. Smith for fencing a road through his land to Lock No. 3, and for the use of it for two years, and that the arrangement of the Agent for its further use if required, be confirmed:

The Agent submitted a report on the state of the works for the present month, as follows:

CORNWALL, May 9th, 1836.

GENTLEMEN,

In the course of last month, the weather having proved favorable, work has been commenced on Sections Nos. 4, 5, 8, 19, 21, 22 and 27; the Lock Contractors are also showing a determination to push on their works as fast as possible. Many of the old laborers have left the works, and new ones have arrived—the wages have been advanced a little, and in consequence the force augmented. The men now employed will number nearly 800; this is an increase of about 300 within the month, which at this season of the year is highly satisfactory; but when we consider the very low rates at which most of the jobs upon our works are taken, will preclude the possibility of contractors holding out like encouragement to laborers here that they would meet with in the United States, the prospect darkens—it would be unreasonable to expect men to remain here for less pay than they can procure by proceeding a few miles farther.

Little material change has taken place in the general aspect of the line, with the exception of the embankment upon Section No. 6, about 5000 or 6000 yards of which has disappeared into the river—this is the first slide of any consequence we have had, and though from the nature of the foundation