

report on the Canal system of the Dominion, as well as on "The construction of a Canal through the Isthmus dividing the Bay of Fundy, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence at Baie Verte."

The Commission reported in favor of a Canal with 15 feet on water sills, and 100 feet bottom, with locks 40x270. They divided the works reported on by them into *four* classes, in the *first* of which they say "we have placed all those works which it is for the general interests of the Dominion should be undertaken and proceeded with as fast as the means at the disposal of the Government will warrant."

It is noteworthy as shewing the estimate held by the Commission of the Baie Verte Canal that it was placed in the *first* class.

The gentlemen delegated with this trust, as is apparent from their report, brought to the discharge of their duties, *research* and *fidelity*. On their suggestions the Government is now acting, in the enlargement of the St. Lawrence and Welland Canals.

G. F. BAILLAIRGE, C. E.

In 1872, Mr. Baillairge reported favorably on a Canal with 15 feet water sills, 100 feet bottom, and locks 40x270 feet. The Western entrance to be at AuLac near the mouth of that river. The Eastern entrance to be near Tidnish Head, Baie Verte.

MESSRS. KEEFER AND GZOUSKI.

In 1873, the above gentlemen reported on a Canal via La Planche to Baie Verte at an estimated cost, for 15x100 feet, of \$5,317,000.

The reports on the Canal culminated December, 1873, with Mr. Page's recommendation for the AuLac and Tidnish route, on the following estimates:

Half Tide Canal,.....	\$7,700,000
Three Quarter "	8,100,000
Full Tide "	8,500,000

Before going into the questions submitted to the present Commission, there are two points of an "incidental" character growing out of these figures which may be introduced here, figures which occupy an important place in the evidence, and generally adverse to the Canal.

WILL THE CANAL PAY?

The propriety of the inquiry may fairly be questioned, for what public work pays? Yet it has been often asked will the Canal pay? Before this point can be determined, the prior one, what will it cost has to be settled. On that point there is a wide divergence of opinion, between Telford, Keefer and Page, which will never be decided until the work is offered to competition.