

the Government in applying the appropriation held in trust for that purpose, and as the long continued peace did not force it upon the military authorities in England, it was never undertaken. The following extract from the Report of the Trade and Commerce of Montreal for 1865, is an evidence of Mr. Wilkins' advanced views on this subject :

"When it is remembered that the stretch between Presque Isle Harbor and Kingston is the most hazardous on Lake Ontario, the advantages to be derived from such a cut-off will be evident, especially in the Fall, when stormy weather is most prevalent. Had that little canal existed last year, a number of marine disasters might have been avoided. Any one who examines the map may see at once how important the Bay of Quinte would thus become in the event of hostilities on the Lake "

At the Union of the Provinces, of which he was an opponent, in common with most of the Conservative party of that day, he declined to accept a seat in the united Legislative Council, though invited to do so by Sir Charles Bagot, who addressed him the following letter upon the subject :—

"Quebec, July 18th. 1842.

"SIR.—As the time is now approaching at which the Provincial Parliament will meet for the despatch of business, and as previous to their meeting it will be necessary that an addition should be made to the Legislative Council, I take this opportunity of informing you that I shall have much pleasure in submitting your name to Her Majesty for an appointment to that Body, should you be willing to accept it.

In making this offer, however, I am bound to stipulate that if, as I hope, you accept it, you will give a regular attendance to the duties which the appointment will entail upon you, and will not allow it to lapse into a mere honorary distinction.

I have great pleasure in this occasion of testifying my sense of your character and standing in this Province.

Your obedient and faithful servant,

CHARLES BAGOT.

The Hon'ble R. C. Wilkins."

It is understood that the reason assigned by Mr. Wilkins for declining this offer was, that his private business required his attention ; but friends who know