

only effect this object, but will tend to remove from the other Officers under your control much labor and responsibility, which I am willing entirely to assume.

In consequence of payments being made by the Agent and Engineer from monies remitted to them on account, an unavoidable derangement of the Entries in my books occurs, and a frequent necessity for the transfer of accounts which it is desirable to avoid. Those entries, (although perfectly explicable by myself) may present difficulties to others who may hereafter examine them. I therefore recommend that in future all payments for account of the St. Lawrence Improvements be made exclusively by the Secretary, either upon the written authority of the President, or by order of the Board in Session, and that an examination of the accounts be had, either quarterly, or by the Board of the Monthly meetings.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES HUME,

Office of the Commissioners, &c. Secretary.
Brockville, 11th January, 1836.

Ordered, That the acquittances or vouchers for monies to be paid on account of the Board shall in future be executed and received by the Secretary at the time of payment, and that the accounts of all monies to be disbursed, shall, when practicable, be submitted to the Board before payment, and when they shall necessarily require to be paid before the same can be submitted, it shall only be done upon the written authority of the President, and submitted for the approval of the Board at its next meeting.

Hector Manson submitted an account for 14 A. 1 R. 21 P. of Timber destroyed for the purpose of quarry ground, amounting to £43 3s. 1d. of which £22 has been previously paid on account.

Ordered, That the balance of the above account (£18 3s. 1d.) be paid.

Thomas Henderson's account for 100 cords of stone at 2s. amounting to £10, and Sewel Cutler's account for 110 cords of stone, amounting to £11 were submitted.

Ordered, that the foregoing accounts be paid.

Andrew Keys' account for work done on Robinson's Bridge; amount £7 12s. 1d.—and W. & J. Bowson's account for rebuilding 64 rods of fence on Section No. 15, amount £2 8s. 0d., were submitted.

Ordered, That the foregoing accounts be paid.

The President submitted an account of the monies collected for tolls on the Tow Path, south side of the Long Sault, nett amount £343 7s. 6d. at the credit of the St. Lawrence Improvements.

A renewed claim from Henry Pierce & Co. (Contractors for building the retaining wall on Section No. 11) with a detailed account for labor, &c. was submitted.

Referred to the Resident Engineer, to report thereon.

An application from S. & W. M. Fraser, to be allowed for extra work on Section No. 6, was submitted.

Referred to the Resident Engineer to report thereon.

An application from A. N. Buell (Contractor for the Culvert) for an advance of £500 or £600 on account of his contract, was submitted.

Resolved, That the foregoing application cannot be complied with.

An application from Charles Kerr & Co. to be paid for work done with the approval of the Engineer on Section No. 18, was submitted.

Ordered, That upon Messrs. Kerr & Co. producing an order from the Contractors for Section No. 18 for the amount of work done by them, the Secretary do pay the same from the monies that may be due on that section.

The Report of the Resident Engineer upon the claim of R. & W. Herveys, (Contractors for Section No. 1) submitted to the Board at the last meeting, was read as follows:

To JONAS JONES, Esq., President, &c.

SIR,
At the last meeting of the Board, Messrs. R. & W. Herveys presented a claim on account of excess of payment made to Mr. Burns, their sub-contractor. Estimates were made upon Mr. Burns' work monthly as it progressed. At a certain time Mr. Burns stopped work, subsequent to which Messrs. Herveys proceeded with it. An estimate being made upon the work, (then Messrs. Herveys') gave them very little return for their labor—this latter estimate was revised and proved about right—the inference is that Mr. Burns had too much allowed him. I cannot say how much exactly, but think, near 500 yards—which is made out from the labor expended. Mr. Burns' work from first to last was in a very rough

state, and it was difficult to measure it at all. As like cases occasionally occur, I have generally declined taking the responsibility of the accuracy of monthly payments from contractors to their sub-contractors, as we have no control or security of the latter by contract, and generally they are men of more moderate means, and often take and leave work with very little ceremony. An estimate of the amount of work done upon a contract may be correct in the aggregate, but upon distinct parts of it the estimate may exceed or fall short of the real amount. I intend that such variations shall be small, and hope that they will nearly balance each other. The only course I see, is for Mr. Burns to refund the excess of payment made to him by the Messrs. Herveys.

The Messrs. Herveys ask further compensation upon an arrangement for placing stone upon their work made in the fall of 1834. (See my letter appended to the Report of the Commissioners in January, 1835.) I certainly see no reason for advancing in the price; and if any change should be made, I think that tenders should be received for it.

Concerning the cement referred to in the letter from Mr. Hardy, I say merely that I am experimenting upon it, but I am not yet ready to decide.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MILLS.

Cornwall, 11th January, 1836.

Ordered, That Messrs. Herveys be directed to use due diligence to recover from Mr. Burns the amount they claim as overpaid to him, and that they report the result to the Board as soon as practicable.

The Monthly Report of the Resident Engineer was read as follows:

To JONAS JONES, Esquire, President, &c.

SIR,

I have little to communicate on this occasion by way of Report. The amount of work done the past month may be seen in the estimate herewith presented.

The force upon the line of the Canal is now reduced to 650 men: should the weather be mild as it has been for some time past, I think our force will be increased.

The winter thus far has been very favorable for getting the Lock Stone to the Canal, which has been prosecuted and is now going on vigorously.

In the original tenders for the locks hardwood plank was not contemplated for the recesses. In the Bills for plank given to the contractors it was specified hardwood, and accordingly it has been provided. An advance of £1 15s. per M. has been allowed the price of this plank delivered—and also an advance of £3 15s. per M. feet, superficial measure, for dressing and laying the same plank; this advance adds £55 to the cost of each lock.

Messrs. Reid & Shepherd purchased a piling Engine, which cost them, according to their report on their work (including repairs) £56 0 0

They drove 4 of the piles contemplated, therefore received 4 the benefit of it, equal to £14 0 0

The Crab, and the Chain of the Engine is useful to them, and is worth 12 0 0

The ram is worth 5 0 0

31 0 0

The Balance is £25 0 0

Which I propose to pay them and let them retain the Engine.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MILLS.

Cornwall, 11th January, 1836.

Ordered, That the above amount be paid to Reid & Shepherd.

At a meeting of the Commissioners, held at Cornwall on the 10th, 11th and 12th May, 1836.

Present.—JONAS JONES, Esq., President.

HON. PHILIP VANKOUGHNET,

HIRAM NORTON,

GEORGE LONGLEY, } Esquires.

PETER SHAVER,

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read. The Estimates for February, March and April were submitted and approved.