

what periods, and after what examination, the payments should be made, must be left to the discretion and judgment of the Government; but whenever the Canal shall be finished, Your Committee think that it would be most desirable to close the Accounts with the least possible delay.

Vide Appendix.

An Estimate, dated 21st June 1832, has been prepared by the Office of Ordnance for the annual maintenance and repair of the Canal, and for the management of the Locks. This amounts to £.18,799. 1. 6. for the present year, and Your Committee presume that a sum must be proposed for this service on account; as, however, this threatens to be an annual expense, they recommend that immediate steps should be taken to place this charge on a regular and economical footing; and they agree with the Treasury and Colonial Office in thinking, that the Provinces of Canada, to whom the whole of these Works must be most valuable, may be reasonably expected to bear this expense. Those Provinces, they hope, will not be indisposed, for such an object, to come to the assistance of the Mother Country, by whom so large an expenditure has hitherto been exclusively incurred. It appears to be still quite uncertain, and it must be so until the Water Communication from Montreal to Kingston shall be completed, how far any tolls to be collected on the different Canals may or may not be sufficient to keep them in repair, and to support the necessary establishment.

Report 1831, p. 8;
Parl. Papers, Feb.
1831, No. 135,
p. 110, 114, 117.
Vide Appendix.

With respect to the three Canals on the Ottawa, Your Committee observe, that in 1831 the Estimate for these Works, including £.54,245 for the enlargement of the Grenville Canal, amounted to £.285,367. The Votes of Parliament amount to £.209,099, leaving by the Estimate of 1831 a sum of £.76,268, still to be provided for. By a Memorandum from the Office of Ordnance, dated June 16th, 1832, it appears, that up to the 31st December 1831, there had been expended upon the Grenville Canal, £.137,244; on the Carillon Rapids, £.23,721; and on the Châte-à-Blondeau, £.9,872; making a total sum of £.170,837, being £.114,530 within the Estimate of 1831, and £.38,262 within the Votes of Parliament. It is now stated in the Memorandum from the Office of Ordnance before referred to, that £.18,411 will be sufficient to complete these Canals, exclusively of £.54,245 for the enlargement of a part of the Grenville Canal. There is also an Estimate from the Ordnance Office of £.23,761 for the expense of the Superintendence and Establishment connected with the Canals on the Ottawa: on this point Your Committee must refer The House to the observations made in the Report of the Committee of 1831.

Ibid.

Report of 1831, p. 8.

Your Committee think it due to the Office of Ordnance, under whose directions the Works on the Ottawa have been placed exclusively, to call the attention of The House to the care and economy with which they appear to have been recently conducted, the expenditure of the year having been far within the annual Vote, and various savings appearing in the present Estimates; they therefore do not hesitate to recommend the completion of these Works, with the exception of the enlargement of the Grenville Canal, to which they will presently advert. The Estimate for this purpose has been already stated to be £.18,411, which, with the money expended up to the 31st December 1831, makes a total of £.189,248, being a saving on the Estimate of 1831 of £.96,119, or, if we exclude from the Estimate of 1831 £.54,245 for the Grenville Canal, a saving of £.41,822.

	£	s.	d.
Rideau	803,774	5	6
Ottawa { spent -	170,837	-	-
{ estim. -	18,411	-	-
	£.993,022	5	6
Establishment	23,761	-	-
	£.1,016,783	5	6

It results from this statement, that the Votes for the whole of this Water Communication amount to £.901,765, and that the present Estimates, including the money already spent, amount to £.993,022. 5. 6. for the completion of the Rideau Canal, and the Canals on the Ottawa, on the scale now existing; this calculation excludes the £.54,245 at different times proposed for the enlargement of the Grenville Canal, and the expense of Superintendence and Establishment on the Ottawa.

From the evidence of Colonel Durnford, and from past experience, Your Committee fear that the present Estimates will be found insufficient for the Rideau Canal. They are therefore of opinion, that it would be imprudent not to calculate on some excess, though they have no means of estimating its amount; and they doubt whether the expectation held out by Colonel By, of opening the Canal on the 1st of May 1832, has been realized.

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