

The promoters of the Beauharnois Canal knew quite well that the whole affair would be brought before the representatives of the people at the next meeting of the House.

COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY APPOINTED.

The late John Simpson, then member for the County of Vaudreuil, had addressed to the Governor-General, a strong protest against the proceedings of Mr. Killaly, denouncing the whole scheme and its results. A petition to the same effect was also presented to the Legislature. A Committee was appointed to make an enquiry into the case. The whole job was laid bare before the Committee. (See General Report of P. W. for 1867, also App. of Journal for 1842.)

The statements contained in the Reports of Messrs. Stevenson and Baird, and fully endorsed and accepted by Messrs. Killaly and Keefer, were disproved, not only with regard to the merits of the line on the south side; the quality of the soil that was to be excavated; the cost of construction; but, above all, with reference to the western extremity or channel of communication, from the canal proper to the navigable channel on Lake St. Francis. The defects of that route, its physical difficulties, the absence of any channel of communication to the lake from the western extremity of the canal, were clearly shown to the Committee by competent engineers, by members of the Legislature, by pilots and by other persons. The theory advocated by Mr. Killaly, and his statement of facts upon which it was founded, were clearly proved to be erroneous.

The committee merely reported the evidence to the House, alleging that a prorogation was on the point of taking place. It became known, afterwards, that two members of the committee had accepted offices under the Crown.

But apart from the evidence adduced before that committee, have we not an experience of thirty years, acquired at an immense cost, to disprove every one of the statements contained in the reports of the promoters of the Beauharnois Canal?

How can we explain the silence of that committee, composed chiefly of gentlemen who were the strong supporters of the Government of the day, and the personal friends of Mr. Killaly, in a case where his professional skill