

" we understand that the country is not committed to an expenditure of \$15,000,000
 " for the opening up of a channel to North Bay, and the construction of docks, and
 " so on, and that the Government is not announcing a policy of construction, or begin-
 " ning the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal, and will not do so until such time
 " as it appoints a Commission to investigate the question from the commercial stand-
 " point, and until it gets its report?"

" Mr. Rogers: That is about right."

The Minister for Public Works did not then announce the names of the Commissioners proposed to be appointed, or the exact terms of the reference to them, or the precise nature of the proposed enquiry.

Upon receiving from the representatives of the Canal Company in Ottawa the report of this discussion, the Bankers in London were notified by the London Company that the proposals which had been submitted by the Canal Company to the Government could not be considered.

Letter of
 Sir Robert
 Perks of
 14th June,
 1913, to Mr.
 Rogers and
 his reply.

56. On the 14th June, 1913, Sir Robert Perks wrote to the Minister of Public Works as follows:—

" 14th June, 1913.

" My Dear Mr. Rogers,

I have been reading very carefully the Parliamentary report of 28th May of the discussion on the Georgian Bay Canal.

My friends here and I are naturally disappointed that the Government did not see its way to include in the estimates a larger sum than \$500,000; but we recognise that the heavy and somewhat unexpected grants and loans to the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway have made, and will make, a heavy drain on the country, just at a time when it is not easy to raise money in London, where these monies will have to be found, at reasonable rates.

But is there anything to prevent the Government making up its mind as to the policy it will pursue? I see you have decided, I venture to think wisely, to take the opinion of a Commission of commercial men as to the value and necessity of the Canal to the trade and commerce of Canada. I am glad to see that you will have this report quickly made.

I expect that an important feature of this report will be the trade through the Canal to United States ports such as Chicago and Milwaukee.

Once the Government has decided whether they will support the building of the Canal, either as a whole or in sections, and whether the Canal is to be built on a Government undertaking or with Government aid, through the agency of the existing Chartered Company, then we can submit to the Government some practical scheme.

I understood when in Ottawa that there is some prospect of you and the Finance Minister coming over to London this summer.

Would it be possible when you are here to formulate some provisional plan for consideration by the Government in the Autumn?

I am, my dear Mr. Rogers,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. W. PERKS.

Hon. Robert Rogers, M.P."

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