

was much prolonged beyond the time expected, from contrary winds and bad weather, yet no serious inconvenience has resulted therefrom, and the only regret we feel is, that it should have prevented us from making our report within the time specified by the acts of the Legislature. This delay has been attended with an advantage, however, which we would not now be possessed of, had our report been made at an earlier period, from the circumstance of several heavy gales of wind from the north east testing the sufficiency of the breakwater, which, although not completed gave protection, in one instance, to five vessels, and in another, to six, which withstood their violence with safety.— This is at once a gratifying circumstance and a proof of the sufficiency of the work. The whole of the south wing of the breakwater being in length two hundred and forty feet, and seventy-five feet of the north-wing is now raised to the total height of six feet above the surface of the lake, nearly filled with stone, and one hundred and thirty-one feet of the decking completed, the other parts of the work is proceeding with all due diligence; and in order to lay before your Excellency more precise information as regards its present state of forwardness, we beg leave to submit copies of the Engineer's two last reports on the subject along with this.

In the first undertaking of the kind in Upper Canada, the want of experience, it was foreseen, would be severely felt, and to avoid which, as much as possible, we endeavoured to procure contractors from among those who had been employed in the Erie canal, which, although not precisely of the same nature with the undertaking committed to our superintendence, yet it was thought persons who had been engaged in it would possess advantages over every other class of men unused to the direction of a large number of workmen and excavation of any sort, and to a certain extent we were successful, but suffered a severe loss in one of the contractors at the very commencement, who, to other qualifications for such undertakings, possessed much experience gained in the construction of the harbour at Buffalo. His loss undoubtedly has prevented much from being done, which otherwise would have been done, at the same time those upon whom the contract devolved have exerted themselves to the utmost, and it is more owing to the nature of the difficulties that have occurred, and which could not have been foreseen nor prevented than to any remissness on their parts, that they have not completed the work by the time specified in their contract. These difficulties are now well understood, and the best possible means within their reach have been adopted to surmount them. Much time has also been lost from the delay necessary to complete the dredging machine, and which was not foreseen, but which has had a tendency to retard the progress of the other parts of the work. It is now, however, in full operation, and no doubt is entertained of its capacity to complete the work for which it was intended. Immediately on the return of the Engineer from our sister Provinces we personally examined the works conjointly with him, and again met at the beach on the first instant, the period at which the contractors had undertaken to complete the canal, when upon mature consideration it was decided to prolong the period for its completion to first of October, next year, but to be open for vessels to pass and repass by first July next. Deeply as we regret the necessity of this arrangement, yet no alternative presented itself to us, and we feel every confidence that a further delay will not be necessary; all the machinery and materials necessary to complete the undertaking is now provided, and nothing more is necessary than to follow up the work to its final accomplishment.

At an early period of the undertaking, much doubt was entertained that the sum provided by the Legislature, would suffice to construct the Canal and finish it in all its parts, and the contractors themselves, seem not to have been aware of the large proportion of the expense machinery would bear to the whole undertaking, which is judged to be one-fourth part. It is now evident it cannot be done unless a sum equal to the price of the machinery and apparatus employed, is added to it—say two thousand pounds; and although we are of opinion they will be of incalculable service in many places in the province, when similar works are undertaken, yet we most respectfully submit to your Excellency, whether this in justice ought to become a charge against the Burlington Bay Canal. The necessity therefore of an application to the Legislature of the province at its approaching session, for the grant of a sum equal in amount to their value, appears indispensable, and we humbly submit a petition for that purpose for your Excellency's approval.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

[Signed]

JAMES CROOKS,
ROBERT NELLES,
MANUEL OVERFIELD,
Wm. M. JARVIS.

} Commissioners.

10th October, 1825.

A true copy, G. HILLIER.

(COPY)

Report relative to the Works at Burlington Beach, September 1825.

To the Commissioners for making a Canal at the Piers at Burlington Beach.

GENTLEMEN,

Having, by unavoidable circumstances been detained for a period of 31 days between Halifax and Queenston, I was apprehensive that the contractors at the Beach would be at a loss for instructions, additional to those pointed out in the supplement to my report for May, under this impression, I have lost no time in revisiting the beach, when I find the state of the works to be as follows:—

The Southern division of the Break-water, has been finished to the platform, well filled with stone, and strongly secured with internal piles—this work is 315 feet in length, 20 feet in width, and 22 feet in height from the bottom of the water to the top of the road way, and contains 4,040 cubic yards of Stones.

The severe North East gales of 16th and 20th August, furnished proof of the security of those parts that were in a finished state, they have sustained no injury, while the Northern unfinished face suffered considerably. This part of the work is now under repair, and preparations are making to sink the remainder of this head.

One hundred feet of the North Ontario pier has likewise been sunk, though not perfected, 162 feet of piling has also been executed, the Beach excavation continues to be prosecuted at intervals, when the workmen cannot attend to the piers:

After six months labour, the dredging machine has now been brought into operation. This machine appears perfect in all its parts, works easy and with effect—two expensive tenders have been prepared to accompany the machine in its operations, several new boats and scows have also been found indispensable.

ESTIMATE OF THE EXPENDITURE AT BURLINGTON BEACH FROM THE 1st MAY TO THE 1st SEPTEMBER.

Lumber received upon the Beach, Saw boards &c. according to the annexed account marked M \$1500 00

Labour during May, of 40 men,	-	-	-	-	-
" " June, 42 do.	-	-	-	-	-
" " July, 58 do.	-	-	-	-	-
" " August, 68 do.	-	-	-	-	-
5735 days at 5s. per day	-	-	-	-	5735 00
Stone furnished by Contract, 184 3-4 Cords of different prices,	-	-	-	-	290 00
Labour of Teams for four months,	-	-	-	-	400 00
Driving 152 piles at 3 dollars each,	-	-	-	-	456 00