

not, perhaps, have done so, had it not been for the pertinacious opposition offered, two days successively by the hon. member.

Mr. MOFFATT would say that the information which he had received, on the subject of this Institution, was directly opposed to that of the hon. member for Richelieu. The hon. member had asserted that there was no museum [Dr. Nelson said no,—he said no anatomical preparations.] Well, he was told there were preparations.

Dr. NELSON.—Since when?

Mr. MOFFATT knew nothing about that. The hon. gentleman asserted that there were no preparations. He said that he was informed there were. He had never asserted that he would oppose the new school. What he had said was, that he would support the old school. He would not, at that moment, pledge himself on the question of the new school, but he would decidedly oppose taking any thing away from the old.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The debate was resumed and after some remarks from Messrs. Nelson, Smith of Frontenac and Aylwin, the motion was carried to grant £500 to McGill College.

#### Lake St. Peter.

Mr. WILLIAMS, went into a long detail of statistics to prove the expediency of improving the old channel in preference to the new channel. His proof was altogether drawn from the report of the Committee of that House on the subject.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It was used as an argument in favour of the new channel that it would save seven miles, when now it turns out there will only be a saving of a half mile or at most one mile, and there is now much less current in the new channel than in the old. Mr. A. read part of the evidence of Captain Rayside, and showed how it was contradicted by the evidence of other parties and the soundings taken by the hon. member for Durham, who had sounded every four minutes, though the captain of the steamboat did not wish to steer to those particular places to which he was requested, and he (Mr. A.) was reminded of the quarter deck when the hon. member (Mr. Williams) ordered him to go to those places that were pointed out to him. (Laughter.) This was the way that other parties had been deceived with respect to the depth of water in the different channels, as they had been steered to those parts only where there was deep water. Captain Vaughan said in his evidence, that the line, as given in the report of the Board of Works, was not correct, and yet it was on the faith of the correctness of this line that Captain Bayfield had recommended the new channel as being preferable to the old. By deepening the old channel, you would have given the trade of Montreal a broad channel of 1500 feet, and thereby much time would be saved in towage, as no steamboat would venture to tow up more than one ship through the new channel.

Mr. WILLIAMS could not exemplify the absurdity of the operations in Lake St. Peter, better than by stating, that in the navigation of the St. Lawrence between this and Kingston, there are several points which project into the river, and an individual, instead of improving the natural channel, should say, "oh, the Province has plenty of money, and I am determined to get to Quebec in as straight a line as possible." Mr. Killaly complains of not being treated with proper courtesy by the Committee; now, he (Mr. W.) could appeal to every member of that Committee, whether every respect was not paid to him? Their questions

were framed in this spirit, for they said, "will you favour," "will you be pleased," &c? And it was not until he found that Mr. Killaly would not give them some information that they desired, that he was obliged to say, "you are compelled to answer." He (Mr. W.) wanted to save a useless expense of money, and he had no feelings to gratify; further than to show that he was qualified to perform the duty that the House had imposed upon him. He did not consider that the members of the Commission of Enquiry were so competent to give an opinion on the relative merits of the two channels as he was, from his profession. The new channel can be carried out at the width of 150 feet for £9,500, but it will only be a partial benefit.

Sol. Gen. SHERWOOD did not intend to defend the Chairman of the Board of Works, or to enter upon the discussion with respect to the relative merits of the different channels. But he considered that the House could not decide the question on account of the conflicting reports, and that it was better to leave it to the Government, who will certainly make proper enquiries before going on with the work.

Mr. ROBINSON.—It is some consolation to him and the hon. member for North Lincoln, to know that there is a deep cut in Lower Canada as well as in Upper Canada. If they were now about to commence the work on Lake St. Peter, he would certainly have been of the opinion that the old channel ought to have been improved, and the work have been begun at the lower part instead of the upper, as has been done. The work ought also to have been given out by contract, and it would then have been finished much sooner and cheaper. It would, in his opinion, be advisable to do the remainder of the work by contract; there was a person in Boston who would do the work for one shilling a yard, and the dredges, which are superior articles, could be profitably employed in the harbours of Upper Canada and Montreal. No contractor would pay £500 to a foreman, as the Board of Works have paid Captain Vaughan the superintendent of this work, besides allowing a certain sum for the board of the men. He was not inclined to stop the work; that would be penny wise and pound foolish, but he would test this narrow channel first, and leave it to the Executive to take such steps as will keep the money from being thrown away.

Mr. McDONALD, of Glengarry.—It will require a dredging machine to clear away the rubbish that has been created by the arguments on both sides; he was in favour of the amendment, for it left it with Government to decide upon the best channel, and they will be responsible to this house. Several of the captains of the regular traders of this port have given their opinion in favour of the new channel, and he was afraid that a great deal of the opposition to the new channel was the result of a combination to injure the trade of Montreal by keeping it at Quebec. If £9,500 would make the new channel available, he was very willing to vote that sum; he did not consider that there was any danger of rafts grounding on this new channel, as he knew that very few rafts go to Quebec after the month of August, when the water is low.

Mr. MOFFATT would feel great reluctance to abandon the straight channel, as such a channel had certainly advantages over a crooked one, if it could be made for anything like a reasonable expense; he (Mr. M.) regretted that this, as well as other public works, had been undertaken before proper surveys and estimates had been made; he would leave it to the Government to decide this question after they had caused further examinations to be made by competent individuals.

Mr. MERRITT spoke in favour of the grant of £9,500 being laid out in continuing the straight line.

Mr. DRAPER said that he felt greatly embarrassed by the question as it then stood. Before the report drawn up by the committee of the house in favour of the old channel was presented, the objections to the new cut had not assumed a tangible shape; now, however, it was different, and there was evidently a necessity for further enquiry. After all he had heard, he felt he had no right to ask the house for a grant specifically for either channel; the appropriation of any further money could only take place after renewed enquiry, and on the responsibility of the Government.

Mr. BALDWIN said that after the conflicting evidence that had been adduced, he could not at that moment pretend to decide as to which channel was the most eligible; he would prefer that the sum proposed to be voted should be laid out in such a way as would be available, be the final decision what it might; but as he understood that could not be done, he saw no course but to leave it to be appropriated upon the responsibility of the Government; he did not wish to prevent the improvement of the Lake, nor could he, as the case then appeared, consent to tie the Ministers hands; they should proceed upon their own judgment and responsibility.

The vote was then agreed to; the appropriation to be made by the Government in favour of either channel as they might determine upon.

#### ROUTINE BUSINESS.

FRIDAY, 5th June, 1846.

Mr. McDonald, of Dundas, presented a report on the petition of Major Richardson.

Mr. DeWitt presented the 5th Report on Contingencies. Referred to a committee of the whole on the 4th Report.

Mr. McDonald, of Dundas, moved an address for copies of correspondence relative to the appointment of two Landing Waiters at Dundas.

Mr. Christie moved that it be

*Resolved*,—That the sessional allowance to members be the same as last session, and that £250 be allowed the Hon. Mr. Morin to compensate him for his services as Speaker *pro tem*.

Which was carried and an address was passed to His Excellency for an advance of £9,237 3s. to pay the same.

The amendments made by the Council to the Militia Bill were agreed to.

The bill granting a Civil List was read a third time.

Mr. Baldwin moved that the words "now at the disposal of the Crown arising in this Province" in the 6th clause be expunged, and the words "now or at any time hereafter claimed to be at the disposal of the Crown in this Province" be inserted in lieu thereof, and that the words "now at the disposal of the Crown in this Province" be expunged wherever they occur.

On which the following division took place:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Armstrong, Aylwin, Baldwin, Berthelot, Boutillier, Cauchon, Chabot, Chauveau, Christie, Desautels, DeWitt, Guillet, Jobin, Lafontaine, Lantier, LaTerriere, Leslie, Macdonald, (Glengarry,) Macdonnell, (Stormont,) Merritt, Methot, Monro, Morin, Rousseau, Tache.—25.

NAYS.—Messrs. Boulton, Cayley, Chalmers, Colville, Dickson, Duggan, Ermatinger, Foster, Gowan, Hale, Hall, Jessup, Macdonnell, (Dundas,) McConnell, Moffatt, Papineau, Pettie, Robinson, Sherwood, (Brockville,) Sherwood, (Toronto,) Smith, (Frontenac,) Smith, (Missisquoi,) Stewart, (Bytown,) Stewart, (Prescott,) Taschereau, Viger, Woods.—23.

On the final passage of the bill, the House divided as follows:—