

COPY OF A REPORT

OF THE HONORABLE THE PRIVY COUNCIL, APPROVED BY HIS
EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL, ON THE
2nd MAY, 1873.

(In No. 38,591.)

On a memorandum, dated 8th May, 1873, from the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, reporting that in the Session of Parliament held in 1868, the Senate passed an Address praying that copies of all documents and surveys relative to the construction of a Canal to connect the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence with those of the Bay of Fundy, might be procured from the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and submitted to the Minister of Public Works for report thereon.

That this information having been as far as possible collected, the whole was referred to the Chief Engineer of the Department, Mr. Page, who reviewed, in a comprehensive report, the various schemes that had been projected, and stated that further explorations and surveys were required before any opinion could be given on so important an undertaking.

That in July, 1870, the Chief Engineer, having been instructed to have such surveys and examinations made, he selected Mr. G. F. Baillairgé, an officer long connected with this Department, as a proper person for the discharge of this important duty, who, as soon as suitable arrangements could be made, proceeded to the place and completed the survey, &c., by the following June, when being ordered on other important services, it was only in April 1872, that his plans, reports, and other documents could be submitted.

That at this time, the Chief Engineer being very busy with other matters, it was considered advisable to invite Messrs. C. S. Gzowski and Samuel Keefer, who had already made a special report on the subject, under the authority of the late Canal Commission, to examine the said plans and documents, with a view to an early decision.

That these gentlemen have submitted several reports on the question, one of which is their General Report, dated February, 1873, in which they enter at considerable length into the subject, and recommend a canal, accessible only at half-tide from Cumberland Basin.

That the surveys of Mr. Baillairgé having been made for a canal accessible at all times of the tide, he was subsequently instructed to furnish an estimate of the cost of a half-tide canal, on one of the lines which he had surveyed.