

R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to take into consideration the ACCOUNTS and PAPERS relating to the CANAL COMMUNICATIONS in CANADA, and to report their Observations thereupon to The House, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, and an APPENDIX:—HAVE examined the Matters to them referred, and agreed to the following REPORT :

YOUR COMMITTEE have examined the Papers referred to them, and some Witnesses, whose Evidence they thought would be of importance.

With respect to the RIDEAU CANAL, The House will recollect, that, according to the Papers presented to Parliament in 1831, the Estimate for that Work amounted to £.693,448, exclusively of a sum of £.69,230 for Fortifications, and the purchase of Land. The Money already voted amounts to £.692,666, leaving a balance of £.782 to complete the Estimate of 1831.

Parl. Paper,
10 Feb. 1831,
No. 135, p. 133,
109, 127 & 128.

By a Memorandum from the Office of Ordnance, dated May 18th, 1832, it appears that the total expenditure on the Canal, up to December 31st 1831, was £.715,408. 15. 6., being an excess of £.22,742. 15. 6. beyond the Votes of Parliament; and of £.21,960. 15. 6. beyond the Estimate for the whole Work made in 1831. The present Estimate, as given in the Memorandum just referred to, in the Abstract annexed to it, amounts to £.776,024. 5. 6., being £.83,358. 5. 6. more than the Votes of Parliament, and £.82,576. 5. 6. beyond the Estimate of last year. If, however, to last year's Estimate be added a sum of £.69,230, which in the Papers then presented to Parliament was stated to be likely to be required for Defences and Bridges, and the purchase of Land, and if £.27,750 for nearly the same purposes be added to the Estimate of this year, the two sums will then be, for the Estimate of 1831, £.762,693, and for that of this year, £.803,774. 5. 6.; being an excess in the Estimate of this year, as compared with that of the last, of £.41,076. 5. 6.

Vide Appendix

Vide Abstract,
18 May 1832.
Ordnance Paper,
18 May 1832.

It is, however, to be observed, that last year, with respect to the sum of £.69,230 it was stated, that, with the exception of £.8,230 for Bridges, it would not be necessary to apply that sum immediately: how far the postponement then recommended has been attended to, your Committee, from the manner in which the accounts are made up, have been unable to determine.

Report, 1831, p. 6.

The present Accounts, therefore, show an Expenditure of £.22,742. 15. 6. beyond the Votes of Parliament; and an Estimate of £.111,108. 5. 6. beyond the same Votes for the completion of the Canal, and for Expenses and Works stated to be in necessary connection with it. Of this sum, what portion may have been already spent, or even what part of it may be involved in existing contracts, Your Committee have no means of ascertaining with accuracy: they presume, however, that, under the arrangements which still subsist, the Public must be ultimately liable for the payment of the whole; this, of course, supposes that the Contracts shall have been faithfully performed; of their nature and character Your Committee have inserted an explanatory Note from the Office of Ordnance: