

July the First, the Commission opened at Montreal. Meetings were afterwards held at Charlottetown, Summerside, Newcastle, Chatham, Bathurst, Campbellton, Pictou, Halifax, Amherst, Sackville, Gloucester, Mass. Montreal, Quebec, Baie Verte, and St. John. Witnesses were examined from Digby, Windsor, Moncton, and Hillsborough.

Differing with my colleagues on the Commission, I feel that I should fail in the discharge of my duty did I not submit to the Government the conclusions I have reached as "to the nature and extent of the commercial advantages to be gained from the construction of the Baie Verte Canal."

Before doing so, a brief recital of the early and later movements in connection with the work will be of interest, as for over half a century it has occupied more or less of public attention, and has been most favorably reviewed by the first commercial men of the Dominion.

One of the early movements in favor of the Canal, took place at the City of St. John, August 9th, 1822, when the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to get a survey of the Isthmus, viz: Hon. Ward Chipman, Hugh Johnston, Thomas Millidge, Thomas Heaviside, Charles Simonds, and Laughlan Donaldson.

To that duty Robert Minette, C. E., was assigned, and at once entered on the work. His report was so satisfactory, that it was followed by Sir Howard Douglas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, appointing Francis Hall, C. E., to make a further survey. This gentleman, in 1825, reported on a line from Shediac to the Bend of Petitcodiac, also, on one from Shediac via Memramcook River to Dorchester, and on a third, across the Isthmus from AuLac at the head of Cumberland Bay to Tidnish at Baie Verte, with a recommendation in favor of the last.

Mr. Hall suggested that the Canal should begin three and a half miles up the AuLac, and terminate two miles from the mouth of the Tidnish, to have a depth of 8 feet water on the sills, with 21 feet width at bottom and 45 feet at top. His estimated cost was \$298,000. If made  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet in place of 8 feet, the cost would be reduced to about \$198,671. The length of the Canal would be 15 miles.

THOMAS TELFORD, C. E.

Sir Howard Douglas submitted the report of Mr. Hall to Thomas Telford, the celebrated English Engineer of that day. He recommended a Canal of 30 feet at bottom, and 72 feet at water surface in