

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to enquire into the possibility of establishing a Submarine Telegraphic System, and into the advantages and necessity of such a System of Telegraphy in the waters of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the waters forming the approaches to the Gulf, beg leave to Report, as follows:—

Your Committee have obtained the evidence of several witnesses, and after mature deliberation are prepared to recommend that with a view of meeting the requirements of trade and navigation and with the view of ensuring to the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence and Atlantic coast that degree of security required for the protection of life and property, it is necessary to establish a comprehensive scheme of marine telegraphy connecting the islands of the Gulf and remote points of the mainland with the telegraphic system of the Dominion. That a powerful steamer be located at some central point, such as Gaspé, in connection with such telegraphic system. That semaphores be erected in connection with lighthouses at all important points. That lighthouses at all important points be in direct communication with telegraph lines, and that keepers of such lighthouses be capable of acting as telegraph operators.

Your Committee do not expect that the whole scheme can be carried out in one or two years in its entirety, but the necessity of such a system is so strongly felt that they would recommend the following detailed suggestions to the careful consideration of the Government. These suggestions are divided into three divisions, placing them in the order of their importance, as follows:—

I.

A cable to connect the Island of Anticosti with the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, if possible, being a distance of about twenty-four miles, at an estimated cost of about \$1,500 per mile laid down; equal to	\$ 36,000
With a land telegraph from Murray Bay to Mingan, being a distance of about 385 miles, at an estimated cost of \$110 per mile for the first seventy-five miles, and \$300 per mile for the remaining 330 miles; equal to	101,250

Being a total of land line and cable of.....\$ 137,250

In case a cable could not be laid by the north, we would recommend that a cable be laid between the south side of the Island of Anticosti and the coast of Gaspé, a distance of about thirty-eight miles, at an estimated cost of \$1,500 per mile laid down; equal to	\$ 57,000
With a land line from Murray Bay to Moisie, a distance of about 285 miles, at an estimated cost of \$110 per mile for the first seventy-five miles, and \$300 per mile for the remaining 210 miles; equal to	71,250

Being a total for cable and land line.....\$ 128,250

Leaving the interval between Moisie and Mingan, and the coast eastward, to be completed with the third division.