

The relations of the proposed Canal to the North West Territory, and the development of that extensive and valuable portion of the Dominion, are also, in the opinion of the Committee, additional reasons for the undertaking of the work. The necessity for its use would also, it is believed, lead to an international system of Navigation Law between this country and the United States, which would be equally just to both; and largely stimulate the important industrial branch of ship-building in this Dominion. By means of its construction the river St. Lawrence, which is the natural highway between the Great West (now rapidly becoming the granary of the world) and the consumers of Europe, would be more used than at present. The consequence would be the necessary enlargement of the St. Lawrence Canals and the acquisition to that noble river of the vast trade which nature intended it to have, but which the energy of man has hitherto, to a large extent, diverted through artificial channels in the neighbouring Republic. By means of the improvements suggested in the navigation of the St. Lawrence, and an improved system of International Navigation Law, Canada would share, to a large extent, in the carrying trade of the world, and our Confederacy would be enriched by the stream of trade which would pass through our territory on its way to the ocean.

The whole of which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

ROBT. A. HARRISON, *Chairman*,  
 CHAS. CONNELL,  
 CHARLES TUPPER,  
 J. H. GRAY,  
 J. G. BLANCHET,  
 JAMES METCALFE,  
 JAMES BEATY,  
 AMOS WRIGHT,  
 G. H. SIMARD,  
 L. H. MASSON,  
 THOS. D. McCONKEY,  
 J. P. WELLS,  
 W. C. LITTLE,  
 GEORGE JACKSON,  
 THOMAS R. FERGUSON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Ottawa, 15th June, 1869.

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
 WEDNESDAY, 9th June, 1869.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

At the request of Mr. Capreol, DR. TUPPER made the following statement:

Dr. Tupper stated, that in the year 1868, he had several interviews with the Duke of Buckingham, who took great interest in the proposed canal and expressed a hope that ere long it will be constructed. He had also had several interviews with Mr. Hawkshaw and Mr. Rendell, both of whom are engineers of the highest standing in England, and who expressed their confidence in the feasibility and practicability of the undertaking. He had had communication also with Mr. Wythes, the eminent English contractor, and the latter proposed in the event of the Government expressing a willingness to grant 10,000,000 acres of land, to send out engineers at his own expence, to verify the reports of Mr. Sykes by actual survey.

Dr. Tupper impressed on the committee the importance of some project of this kind for facilitating access from the West to the Seaboard, being undertaken without delay, not only in a Provincial but a National point of view. Men of the highest character and standing in England, both contractors and engineers, are in favor of the construction of works of this kind. He knew Mr. Wythes to be a man of immense wealth, and second to none in England as a contractor. He also stated that Sir Harry Verney, a member of the Imperial House of Commons, expressed great interest in the construction of the proposed canal. Dr.