

PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE.

C O P Y

OF

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 10th June 1831; LETTER from the Admiralty, 17th June 1831; Ditto, Secretary of State for the Colonies, 29th June 1831; Ditto, Ordnance, 5th July 1831; TREASURY MINUTE, dated 8th July 1831, upon the subject of giving to Parliament a more early and effectual Control over the EXPENDITURE for PUBLIC WORKS ABROAD, as recommended by the Select Committee of The House of Commons, appointed to consider the Water Communication in *Canada*.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, }
15 July 1831.

T. SPRING RICE.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 10th June 1831.

My LORDS read the following Extract from the Report of the Select Committee, appointed to consider the Water Communication in *Canada* :

“ Your Committee are distinctly of opinion, that some additional Security is required, for the purpose of giving to Parliament a more early and effectual control over Expenditure, of the description of that under consideration. With this view, they submit the following Resolutions to The House :—

“ 1st. That no Public Work of any magnitude shall be undertaken, except on a Survey and Estimate, made by an officer acting under the orders of some responsible Department:

“ 2d. That on the first application for a Vote of Money, an Estimate of the sum likely to be required for the whole Work shall be laid before The House.

“ 3d. In cases which require more than one year for their completion, and where Money is proposed to be voted on account, there shall be submitted to The House in each year, and before the Vote is proposed, a Statement of the Sums already voted, of the Money actually expended up to the date of the last Accounts, of all outstanding Demands, and of the Sum still wanting to complete the Work; and any deviations from the Original Plan, or any contemplated additions to the magnitude or expense of the whole Work, shall be inserted in the Estimates of the year.

“ 4th. No Department of the Government shall authorize any officer to enter into Contracts for any Work, beyond the limits of the annual grants of Money, without the sanction of a Minute of the Board of Treasury, which shall, with as little delay as possible, be laid before The House.”

In the Opinions thus pronounced, My Lords concur: feeling the necessity of providing in all cases a more direct and effective Parliamentary check upon the Public Expenditure, they are desirous of carrying these Resolutions into effect invariably; but before any decided step is taken, either by proposing these Resolutions in The House of Commons, or by pursuing any other course thereon, My Lords direct, that Letters be written to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department,