

ing the Machinery in a perfect state from England, recommended that course to be adopted, stating at the same time, that the expence would exceed by £1500 the sum already appropriated.

Upon receiving this report the Governor in Chief directed the suspension of all further proceedings and submitted by message to the Assembly the report and estimate in the following Session.

An additional sum of £1500 being granted in 1831-2, instructions were conveyed to the Commissioners to procure the Machinery from England, and orders were transmitted to London to that effect.— In the correspondence which was opened with a Commercial House in London upon the subject, it was ascertained that the cost of the Machinery alone would equal the amount of the whole appropriation, and a further reference was made to the Assembly on the 23d December, 1831, in a message from the Governor in Chief, with the papers and estimates shewing the necessity of an additional grant for the construction of a Vessel and other expences connected with the employment of the Machinery.

No notice was taken of this application in the Session of 1831-1832, although had the disinclination of the Assembly to make an additional grant been made known shortly after receiving the communication, there would have been time to have countermanded the shipment of the Machinery from Great Britain, but there does not appear to have been any disapprobation of the proceedings of the Commissioners expressed at that time—on the contrary the Assembly voted an additional grant of £15,000 for the Harbour of Montreal, to be expended under the superintendence of the Commissioners, whom it is now intended to displace.

Your Committee therefore submit as their opinion, that the powers confided to the Commissioners have been exercised with proper discretion and due regard to the public interest.

And your Committee in viewing all the proceedings connected with this transaction, feel themselves compelled to state that the zeal and unwearied application of the Commissioners as exhibited in the Documents submitted to them have excited their warmest admiration, and the implied and public censure on the conduct of the Commissioners conveyed in the Bill, now before your Honorable House, is not warranted by the contents of the Documents nor the evidence brought before the Committee.

Your Committee cannot forbear to express their sentiments on the very liberal conduct of the gentlemen in London, in correspondence with the Commissioners on the subject of the acquisition of the Machinery in question—a liberality which entitles them to the respect and approbation of the community at large.

(Signed,) WILLIAM B. FELTON,

*Chairman*