

acc No 22017

REPORT

Of the Select Committee to whom has been referred the matter of the Petition of the Town Council of Goderich, praying for the construction of a Harbor of Refuge at Goderich.

The Select Committee to whom the matter of the Petition was referred,

BEG LEAVE TO REPORT :

1st. That they have examined the various Petitions which have been presented to your Honorable House, relative to the construction of a Harbor of Refuge at some eligible central locality on the East Coast of Lake Huron between Port Sarnia and Cape Hurd.

2nd. That from the evidence taken by your Select Committee, comprising that of owners of vessels, captains navigating the Lakes, engineers, surveyors, the Board of Underwriters, and the United States' Topographical Engineers and otherwise, your Select Committee are of opinion—

(a) That the immense loss of life and property in past seasons, urgently necessitates the construction of an Asylum Harbor wherein vessels may find shelter from the severe storms that so frequently occur on Lake Huron, and your Committee find that during last Fall, those unhappy disasters were numerous.

(b) That Owners and Consignees have, during the past, experienced considerable difficulty in procuring Insurance on their vessels and cargoes, and that thereby the Coast Trade has been most prejudicially affected, as the owners of vessels have either abandoned such Trade or sold their vessels, and it would therefore appear that the construction of a Harbor of Refuge would greatly aid in resuscitating commercial operations in the Coast Trade on the East Coast of Lake Huron.

3rd. That the bulk of the evidence received by your Committee and appended to this Report, and the plans which were submitted to your Committee, confirm your Committee in the conviction that the Harbor of Goderich would be the most desirable as a Harbor of Refuge. Its advantages appear to your Committee to be :

(a) Its capacity—the area being at least twenty acres.

(b) Its freedom from drifts, shoals, and boulders, and its approach, which is safe and easy to navigation.

(c) Its being the terminus of a Railway—the point at which wharves are in course of construction, and where a Grain Elevator and substantial Freight Warehouses have lately been erected.

(d) Its locality is central, and as a Town it is already a Depot of Trade of no mean proportions, and is well situated in this, that it is "in the drift" of the Lake Navigation, as is proved by the number of vessels that have been disabled at various points of the Lake, and driven by the prevailing winds to Goderich.

(e) That four of the largest Lake propellers, besides side-wheel steamers and sailing vessels, ply between Goderich and Saginaw, Milwaukie, Chicago, and all Lake Ports ; and a large capital has been expended in improvements, extensions, erections and otherwise, to meet the increased demand of the commerce of the place.

For the reason aforesaid, your Committee strongly recommend that Goderich be selected as the Harbor of Refuge, and that the necessary works therefor be at once commenced, and be prosecuted with every possible diligence, and your Committee respect-