

A MINORITY REPORT
ON THE
PROPOSED BAIE VERTE CANAL.

To the HON. RICHARD W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State for Canada.

Sir,—

On the first day of July last the following was received from your department :

" OTTAWA, 28th June, 1875.

SIR,—

I am directed to inform you that the attention of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has been drawn to the propriety of appointing a Commission to investigate the nature and extent of the commercial advantages to be derived from the construction of the Baie Verte Canal, to connect the waters of the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and that His Excellency has been pleased to authorise the appointment of such a commission.

The commission will be required to consider and report on the following subjects :

1. The distance from the St. Lawrence, via the proposed Canal to the Great Sea Ports of South America and the West Indies, and the Ports along the United States coasts, as compared with the route by the Straits of Canso or round Cape North.
2. The extent of the existing trade with these Ports and its probable prospective increase.
3. Whether it is probable that any or what portion of the Coal Trade from the Northern coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, or the Southern coast of Newfoundland will be likely to seek an outlet by the proposed Canal.
4. The size of the vessels that might fairly be expected to trade through the proposed Canal, and whether sail vessels, or steam vessels will be on the same comparative footing as on the existing routes by the mouth of the Gulf.
5. The nature and extent of the Local Trade affecting only the coasts of the Bay of Fundy and the North coasts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
6. The nature and extent of the difficulties which might be encountered in getting into and out of the Canal on account of the extremely high tides in the Bay of Fundy.

I am further to state that his Excellency has been pleased to appoint the Honorable John Young, of the City of Montreal, Chairman of the Commission, and to associate with that gentleman, for the purposes of the proposed investigation, The Honorable W. P. Howland, C. B., of Toronto, Peter Jack, Esq., of Halifax, and yourself.

I am to add, that it is considered advisable that the Commission should visit Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown, Quebec and Montreal, and such other places as may seem desirable, and take such evidence at each of those places as may enable them to gather carefully the opinions of the commercial community and especially of Captains and Sailing Masters of vessels as to the commercial value and advantages of the proposed canal.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

[Signed]

EDWARD LANGEVIN,
Under Secretary of State."