

cost of the Canal upon the Lachine scale, amounting to £174,844,00, a sum vastly different from that for nearly the same work estimated by Mr. Clowes.

These documents of Lieut. Colonel By were referred by the Board of Ordnance to a Committee of Engineers in London, who reported unfavorably towards Lieut. Colonel By's project, and even went so far as to recommend the substitution of wood in place of stone for the remaining 36 Locks unfinished or not contracted for. The Marquess of Anglesey, at that time Master General of the Ordnance, not content with this Report, referred the matter to the Honorable Wm. Huskisson, Colonial Secretary, who being of opinion that Lieut. Colonel By's suggestion was worthy of more consideration than that paid by the Committee, recommended a Commission to be sent out from England by the Board of Ordnance, to determine upon this very material point. Consequently in the spring of 1823, Lieut. Colonels Fawshawe and Lewis arrived in Canada to form a Commission of which His Excellency, Sir James Kempt, Governor General of the Canadas, was the President, who in June of the same year reported to the following effect:

"After a careful consideration of all the circumstances attending this very great undertaking, and a most anxious desire not unnecessarily to involve the Mother Country further into an extent of expenditure little contemplated in the outset, at the same time not to sacrifice any large portion of the expenses already incurred or engaged for by specific contracts, the Committee recommend that the whole Back Water Communication should be completed, with five feet depth of water; and the locks uniformly adapted for the passage of steam-boats 30 feet wide over the paddle boxes, and for spare 108 long, besides ample space for working the gates."