

in 1833, and Mr. Baird, in 1835, were employed by the Agent of the Seigniory of Beauharnois, to make explorations on the south shore. As their reports were *ex parte* made, they could not be considered as very impartially stating the merits of the location. They contained romantic descriptions of the site; of the advantages of that location, which they declared to be unsurpassed. (See General Report of P. W. for 1867, fol. 14; also Mr. Killaly's Report of 1st Aug., 1842.)

In 1834, Mr. Stevenson's project was submitted to the Government and Legislature of Lower Canada, but it was not accepted nor entertained.

In 1835, two plans for the construction of a canal on the south side, which had been prepared by Messrs. Stevenson & Baird, by order of the Seigniors of Beauharnois, were submitted to the Legislature of Lower Canada. (See Report of P. W. for 1867, fol. 14.) But the Government and Legislature, being well informed, by the report of the hydrographic survey of that part of the St. Lawrence, by Messrs. Thompson and Larue, as to the defects of that route, and as to the exaggerated statements of Messrs. Stevenson and Baird, refused to entertain their project, and it was rejected.

In 1839 Colonel Philpott recommended the construction of a canal on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Nothing further was done to improve the navigation of that part of the St. Lawrence up to the time of the union of the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

THE BEAUHARNOIS JOB.

It must be borne in mind that at that period of our political history, the Seigniors of Beauharnois exercised a very large influence in the Colonial Office, and in the Government of Canada. They had justly considered that the construction of a canal through their Seigniory would be highly beneficial to them; that it would enhance the value of their property; and that the time had arrived to secure, by their influence in the Colonial Office and with the Canadian Government, the execution, through their estate, of the important scheme which the Lower Canada Legislature had rejected in 1835.

The 20th August, 1841, Lord Sydenham, then Governor General of Canada, in a message to the Legislature, recom-