

REPORT AND EVIDENCE ON THE CHANNELS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE, &c.

Thursday 18th December 1826.

PRESENT :—Messrs. *Letourneau, Fortin, Laterrière, Borgia, Neilson and Christie.*Mr. *Laterrière* called to the Chair.

In submitting the information which they have collected, and particularly the testimony of Captain *Bayfield* of the Royal Navy, the Committee are of opinion that in order to navigate with more safety in that part of the River *Saint Lawrence*, which lies between the Harbour of *Quebec* and *Hare Island*, it would be absolutely necessary that the Pilots should know every Channel or Pass into which vessels may happen to run, as well on the North side, and between the *Islets*, as the Channel on the South side of the River, respecting which alone pilots are examined; that from the lower end of the *Island of Orleans* on the North side, as far as *Mal-Baie*, there is a good Channel and several good anchorage grounds, and a very secure Harbour in all weather at *Isles aux Coudres*; that there is another Channel between *Isle aux Coudres* and *la Batture aux Loups-marins*, where vessels are frequently driven in the night by strong winds or drawn by the currents; that it is owing to this want of knowledge which has never been required of Pilots, that Shipwrecks are most commonly attributed and which have happened in the part of the River, where the hopes of the Merchants have frequently been frustrated—Your Committee are of opinion that in order to improve the navigation and enjoy the benefit of these Channels, it would be expedient to authorise the Corporation of the Trinity to Licence upon good and satisfactory proof of capacity, experienced Navigators from the North Shore by allowing them the same rates as are allowed by Law to Pilots, that in order to induce the pilots which are already licenced, to become as speedily as possible acquainted with these several passes, it would be proper to grant them during five years, to commence from the first of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, an additional allowance of five shillings for every foot of water which such vessels might draw, over and above what the Law actually allows for Pilotage by the South Channel; this allowance to be taken from the Revenue of the Province—That no Pilot Prentice be licenced one year after the first May One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, without having undergone an examination, and having given satisfactory proof of his capacity to pilot vessels in these different Channels.

That it is the opinion of your Committee that, in order to facilitate the Passage of the Traverse, between *Cap Tourmente* and *Isles aux Raux*, that two Buoys be placed there—Your Committee are also of opinion that an instruction be given to the Clerk of this House, that as soon as the Chart which is now preparing for the Admiralty shall have been published, from the scientific survey which has been made by Captain *Bayfield* of that part of the River last Summer, that one hundred Copies thereof be ordered out to be distributed to the Pilots to serve as instructions to mariners and to the officers of the Trinity at *Quebec*.

ORDERED, That the Chairman do leave the Chair and report :

The whole nevertheless humbly submitted,
(Signed)MARC P. DE SALES LATERRIERE,
Chairman.