

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMONS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE Select Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Commissioners of the St. Lawrence Navigation, have taken the same into consideration, and beg to submit the following Report for the information of your Honorable House.

On reference to the acts of the Provincial Legislature (3d Wm. IV. chap. 18, & 4th Wm. IV, chap. 40, authorizing the construction of the St. Lawrence Canal) your Committee have ascertained that the entire amount appropriated by Parliament for the construction of this great public undertaking was £420,000, of which sum, £356,579 has been expended, leaving a balance of £63,421 not yet appropriated.

It is stated in the report of the engineer, that the sum of £51,500 will yet be required to complete the works at the Long Sault, and a further sum of £5,215 15 8½ to pay outstanding debts, (for which notes on interest have been issued by the board) making together the sum of £56,715 15 8½.

By the bill passed by the Legislature during its last session, entitled "An Act to afford further facility to negotiate debentures for the completion of certain works," and which bill has since been assented to by Her Majesty's Government, the sum of £50,000 is authorized to be issued for the express purpose of completing that part of the work already commenced, and your Committee recommend that means be provided to effect this desirable object, particularly as the Engineer as well as the President of the board entertain no doubt that the tolls will pay the interest on this additional outlay, as soon as this part of the work shall be open for public use.

The Committee have read with attention the report of the resident Engineer, which, together with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners, and the account of expenditure; is annexed to the report referred to your Committee.

Entertaining a high opinion of the magnitude, utility and importance of this great public undertaking, your Committee not only recommend that the necessary funds be supplied, for the completion of the works already commenced, but they entertain a sanguine hope that the continuance of this navigation, without interruption, to the City of Montreal, will be one of the first objects to attract the attention and secure the support of the ensuing Legislature.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT,

Chairman.

*Committee Room, House of Assembly,
30th January, 1830.*