

in the plan accompanying the Petition, will not interfere with the navigation of the St. Lawrence.

The Board adjourned, to meet again at Cornwall on the 21st instant.

At a meeting of the Commissioners held at Cornwall on Saturday, 21st May:

Present.—JONAS JONES, Esq., *President.*

Hon. JOHN HAMILTON,

Hon. PHILIP VANKOUGHNET,

HIRAM NORTON,

PETER SHAVER,

JOHN McDONELL.

} Esqrs.

John McDonnell, Esquire, having presented to the Board a notification of his appointment as a Commissioner in room of the Hon. John Macaulay, who had resigned, took his seat at the Board.

The Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read.

Benjamin Wright, Esquire, Consulting Engineer, submitted a Report on the state and progress of the works, which was read as follows:

To the President and Board of Commissioners of the St. Lawrence Improvements.

GENTLEMEN,

Having examined the work along the whole line of Canal, I now lay before you my own views in relation to the work. It will be recollected by the Board that I have not seen this work since about the middle of August, 1835.

No. 1 Section.—This Section, the most difficult and expensive, comprising labor equal to all the excavation and embankment on the whole remaining sections, has made but slow progress, and, as I observed last year, will be the last work finished on the Canal. The plan of carrying the Canal along the river bank, according to the original design, I have the most undoubted confidence will succeed equal to my most sanguine expectations. It will no doubt be found best to carry the centre line of excavation some further into the bank than was originally intended. The earth is now carried out into the river to the extent of the outside slope for long pieces, and the stones for securing it from abrasion are now being thrown in on many parts of the line; and when the several places where the earth is carried out to its intended width shall have been joined together and all secured with stone on the slope, there is very little danger of the river doing injury to the work. Mr. Mills has carried the line into the bank, as he has explained to me and to the Commissioners, so as to meet my views fully and perfectly satisfactory.

Passing on down the line, I find every other part of the embankment and excavation in such progress that it might, if desired, be completed this season. This is not necessary, and the Board can extend the time to complete the other sections for another season, if the Contractors desire it, or until near the completion of No. 1.

Locks.—These are very important parts of the work. The stone prepared for them is very superior and deserves praise.

No. 1.—The foundation nearly done, and masonry begun.

No. 2.—The masonry will be commenced this day.

No. 3.—The foundation now being laid.

No. 4.—The foundation as laid last year has been injured by water and frost so as to require to be in part taken up.

No. 5.—Pit not quite excavated, but is going on.

No. 6.—Almost ready to begin masonry.

All or nearly all the stone on the ground, and other material except cement ready.

Culverts.—There are not any of them entirely complete. The one at Mills Roches nearly done. That at Robinson's Creek is in a good state of forwardness, and the remainder at Wood's Creek, Moulinette, and Cornwall, are so far prepared, as to have pits nearly ready and all the stone on the ground.

Gates and Iron-Work.—This contract in its mechanical execution is one by far more difficult than any other. So far as I can judge of the work done, it is going on to my entire satisfaction; and if the Contractor pursues the same course to the completion of his contract, I think the Board will consider themselves very fortunate, that this most difficult contract to execute properly in all its details has fallen into such hands.

I have consulted with Mr. Mills on all the details of the work, and every thing appears very satisfactory so far as the

work has progressed. I find that the delay in the work being brought to a completion will be on Section No. 1. All proper measures should be devised to push forward that Section. Unfortunately the rise in the value of labor and provisions, and the great demand for labor in the United States, and where much higher prices are paid than the contractors on this work can be justified in giving, under their present prices for work, will operate to prevent them from obtaining labor to push forward their work, and I fear this state of things will protract the completion of this Canal far beyond the wish of the Board, unless some remedy for the evil can be devised, which the Board in their wisdom may think proper to suggest.

I presume Mr. Mills, the Acting Engineer, will give such ample detail of the works as to explain every thing desired.

Respectfully submitted by,

BENJ. WRIGHT,

Consulting Engineer.

Cornwall, 21st May, 1836.

The Resident Engineer submitted a Report upon the communication from Messrs. R. & W. Hervey respecting the abandonment of part of Section No. 1, and on the allowance to be made for extra work.

To JONAS JONES, Esq., *President, &c.*

SIR,

In view of present circumstances, I am inclined to recommend the re-letting of that part of Section No. 1, below Station 63, in pursuance of the proposition of the Messrs. Herveys, and as the platforms which have been put up upon this work will be of use hereafter, and as a certain kind and amount of tools prepared and provided expressly for this work are now on hand, I think it not unreasonable that the Board would undertake to dispose of them to the successors of the Messrs. Herveys. With the above arrangement, there is no price for extra work to be determined, except upon the work above Station 63;—I considered the price of this extra work in view of the prices of labor, provisions, &c. in 1834, and conclude to recommend ninepence per cubic yard for it, so that in case a per centage should be allowed upon the contracts, the per centage would apply to the work without distinction.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MILLS.

Cornwall, 20th May, 1836.

Moved by Mr. Shaver. That the proposition of the Messrs. Herveys to relinquish all that part of their Section below Station 63, for the excavation above water-level, be accepted upon the recommendation of the Consulting and Resident Engineers: and that the Resident Engineer do as early as possible proceed to lay out the work so relinquished into Sections and advertise for tenders to be laid before the Board at its next sitting.

Which was carried.

YEAS.—Messrs.

Shaver,
McDonell.

Vankoughnet, Norton,

NAYS.—Messrs.

Hamilton,

Jones.

Ordered. That the sum of nine-pence per yard be allowed to the Messrs. Herveys for the extra work on Section No. 1, above Station 63, as recommended by the Consulting and Resident Engineers.

The Resident Engineer reported upon the claim of Messrs. R. & W. Hervey to be allowed for stone raised by them as follows:

I recommend the payment of 6d. per yard for the stone raised in the fields. The number of yards to be determined by estimate; the charge for extra tools to be allowed, but to be determined by proportion as £10 : 1800 yards.

Ordered. That the claim of Messrs. Herveys be paid, as recommended in the foregoing Report.

The Resident Engineer submitted a Report upon the claim of Messrs. C. Kerr & Co. in consequence of alleged alteration of the line of Canal, at Section No. 3, (laid before the Board in December, 1835,) as follows:

To JONAS JONES, Esq., *President, &c.*

SIR,

In December last, Messrs. Kerr & Co. presented a claim in consequence as expressed by them of the quantity