

REPORT, &c.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, COMMITTEE CHAMBER,

THURSDAY, 28th March, 1833.

The Committee to whom was referred the communications between the Governor and the Commissioners for the improvement of the Harbour of Montreal, on the subject of the purchase of a Dredging Machine, with instructions to report whether the powers confided to the Commissioners have been exercised with sound discretion and a due regard to the public interest, beg leave to report—

Your Committee have carefully perused the correspondence between the late Administrator of the Government, the Governor in, Chief and the Commissioners, and have called on the Honorable Mr. Moffatt, Chairman of the Commission, for information on some points which appeared to require elucidation.

The Committee beg leave to present a succinct sketch of the proceedings of the Commissioners, being of opinion that it will enable the Council to judge of the correctness of the conclusion which the Committee will have the honor to submit.

The Legislature in the Session of 1829 1830, having granted the sum of £3000 for the purchase of a Dredging Machine, His Excellency Sir James Kempt, then Administering the Government who appears to have considered that this service was intimately connected with the duties assigned to the Commissioners for the improvement of the Harbour of Montreal, applied to those gentlemen to institute enquiries into the practicability of obtaining the Machine at Montreal.

The Commissioners having obtained the required information, made a report strongly recommending having the Machine and Vessel constructed in Montreal, and at the same time expressing their confidence in the character and abilities of the parties connected with the manufacturing establishments, who offered to undertake the execution of the work. The necessary authority to procure the Machinery was conveyed to the Commissioners by Colonel Yorke, on the 14th June, 1830; and advertisements were accordingly published early in July, but the manufacturing establishments in Montreal which had offered to make the Machinery in the first instance, declined making any tenders at this period, and the Commissioners having obtained some information from New York, turned their attention to that quarter, whence it appears that they received offers for furnishing the Machinery; but as neither the price nor the assurance of quality appeared to be quite satisfactory, the Commissioners having obtained information from Mr. Fleming, the Engineer employed in surveying the Harbour, which led them to believe that greater advantage would be derived from import-