

# REPORT

ON THE

## OTTAWA AND FRENCH RIVER NAVIGATION PROJECT.

TORONTO, 22nd March, 1858.

SIR,—I have the honor to report on the proposed line of navigation from Montreal, by the Ottawa and French Rivers, to Lake Huron, the examination and survey of which were committed to my charge by the Commissioners of Public Works, in July, 1856.

As an index to the work embraced in the exploration and survey of so long and varied a chain of waters as go to make up the route in question, I will divide it into the following sections:

1st. Montreal to Ottawa City.....	110 miles.
2nd. Ottawa to Portage du Fort.....	55 “
3rd. Portage du Fort to Fort William.....	60 “
4th. Fort William to Mouth of the Matawan.....	80 “
5th. The Matawan and Lake Nippissingue.....	45 “
6th. Lake Nippissingue and French River.....	80 “

Whole distance Montreal to Lake Huron..... 430 miles.

For particulars of the steps taken for the carrying out of my instructions, I would refer you to my *ad interim* reports—more especially those of the 13th December, 1856, and 19th March, and 25th August last year, while I will here merely recapitulate in general terms what in those documents is given in detail, viz.: that the original appropriation for meeting the expenses of the survey having been of very limited amount, I deemed it advisable to confine actual instrumental operations, in the first instance, to those portions of the route which obviously presented the principal obstructions to the establishment of a continuous navigation. The sections selected on these grounds were;—1st. That from Portage du Fort, at the head of