

there is a vast difference between a road without form or solidity,—and which is nothing more than an open space in an enclosed Country, along which travellers may with difficulty pass—and a road fit to allow of carriages being drawn with rapidity, with little labour to the horses, and perfect security to the passengers. The want of adequate means alone have prevented the Commissioners from adopting the best system of road making, still they have placed the roads on an infinitely better footing, and have reduced the system nearer to a science, imparting a degree of solidity and durability before unknown in the Colony.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

Chairman of the Board of Road Commissioners

P. S. The military Road between Fort Townshend and Fort William is in a very bad state—the sum of £80 sterling would put this fine line of Road in thorough repair.

Cochrane Street is also in need of slight repairs. This beautiful Street is already crumbling away for want of proper attention,—the sum of £20 would repair it.

REPORT

OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT APPOINTED IN 1836.

THE amount in the hands of the commissioners at the period when their last account was furnished, arose chiefly from the remaining balances of sums appropriated for removing the rocks at the entrance to Quidy Viddy Harbor, and for the Bay Bulls road—and has been expended accordingly.

Bay Bulls road.

With the exception of that part of the Bay Bulls road lying between Bay Bulls Large Pond, and Long Pond, which is only 12 feet wide the whole distance from Sweeney's Marsh to Bay Bulls is opened the full breadth of 24 feet,—over all the roads and principal streams bridges have been built, and cross and side drains completed as far as the funds allotted for this road permitted.

Road from Holyrood to Placentia by Salmonier, and Salmonier to St. Mary's.

The nature of the country between the above named places being very little known, and the information that could be collected relative to it, being of a most uncertain character, the commissioners were compelled as a first step to send their superintending Surveyor to explore and examine it in various directions, in order that the most advantageous line for the road may be correctly ascertained. After a most laborious research, renewed from time to time as circumstances permitted, he was only enabled, from the many difficulties encountered, to make such a report as induced the commissioners to determine on the line for the first 5 miles of road, from Holyrood—this portion which reaches to Peak Pond, the commissioners consider unexceptionable—the opening of it has been contracted for, and the work is in progress. Much time has been consumed, and money expended, in the preliminary examination referred to, but the outlay has been of the greatest service, as though so limited an extent of the whole road as that above named, has been exactly determined on, the Commissioners are now possessed of sufficient information to satisfy them, that the general direction of it may with the greatest benefit to the public be taken to the northward of Salmonier River, and very considerably so, perhaps 4 miles, to the northward of Flakey Down, as a very steep hill, over which as well as other hills almost as exceptionable as that, the existing route to Placentia now runs. The new line, in addition to its securing a very superior level, has also the advantage of passing thro' a country much more favourable to the agriculturist than the old one.

The road from Salmonier to St. Mary's, as marked by Mr. Blackburn, with some alterations, more especially at its junction, with the main line from Holyrood, the commissioners believe may be adopted as the road to be finally opened.

On the Topsail road.

The sum of £53 8s. 6d. has been spent in paying a balance due for the erection of a bridge over Seals Cove river, on the road between Holyrood and Kellygrews, and for covered drains on the road between the latter place and Topsail, and for other necessary repairs.

Road from Coady's Well to Broad Cove

After the country between the above named places had been examined, a line of road was marked by direction of the Commissioners, and subsequently opened by contract. The amount voted for this road did not permit the commissioners to open it generally of a greater width than 12 feet—in parts between, with a view to future improvements, that width was increased. Such bridges and drainings as were necessary to make this road passable have been also completed, and the commissioners believe it is of great service to the residents in Broad Cove—the distance to this place from Coady's Well is about four miles...to make the road good would require £200 per mile.

Quiddy Viddy.

The work here since the commissioners' last report has been continued through the two past seasons,—during that of 1837, the sum of £99 5s. 9d. cy. was expended; during that just now terminated, the sum of £159 13s. 2d. cy., and there still remains about £70 cy. to be appropriated to the same purpose. The effect produced has been the clearing the channel from the rocks which at low water were bare. The spaces occupied by them are now, at low spring tides, covered with from four to five feet of water; the width of the channel has been also considerably widened, and the commissioners believe the parties most interested in it feel that their facilities in prosecuting the fishery are very materially increased, and that they are satisfied with the improvements so far made. With the foreman of the work (Nicholas Kennedy) the commissioners have every reason to be pleased; and in consideration of the attention displayed by him, from the first commencement of the work, and of his having constructed the tubes and bags requisite for blasting, they have considered it but just towards him, after three years' service, to give him in addition to his ordinary wages, the sum of twenty pounds.

(Signed)

JOSEPH NOAD, Chairman.