
had resolved upon making, we had necessarily to be circumspect in accepting the testimony which was given us.

Many of the inhabitants of the shore, especially in places where the banks are high, and where they do not suffer from the floods, think only of the advantages resulting from the ice bridge and how its formation may be secured; but we considered that our duty was, above all, to ascertain the means of preventing, if possible, the disastrous overflowings of the St. Lawrence without interposing any obstacle to the free navigation of the river. And it was therefore towards that point that we directed our examination and researches.

After leaving Quebec on the 7th November, we more especially examined, on the upward trip, the following places:—St. Nicholas, Chaudière Narrows, Pointe-aux-Trembles, Les Ecureuils, the Platon, Grondines Point, Cap Charles or St. Jean Deschaillons, Batiscan, Champlain and Three Rivers, at which latter place, on the 12th of November, approaching winter and large quantities of ice compelled us to suspend our labors. We then resolved to continue the examination of the river in winter vehicles, so soon as the condition of the roads would allow of our doing so.

Accordingly, on the 25th November I proceeded to Batiscan and Grondines, and on the 4th December I went down to Quebec to examine the ballast ground, where the ballast from sea-going vessels is deposited, and to observe the passing of the ice at St. Nicholas.

Upon my return from Quebec, I found a letter from Mr. Dickinson, informing me that the Commission was suspended, and directing me, in consequence, to proceed to Montreal, whither I proceeded some days later.

Although in the short space of time which we had at our disposal, I was unable to obtain all the information which could be wished, and to make as minute and detailed an examination as I could have desired, of the river between Quebec and Three Rivers, I consider, however, that I am in a position to point out the principal causes of the floods, and to suggest the most easy and the cheapest means to be adopted to prevent, in a great measure at least, the recurrence in the future of similar disasters: and I am ready, if you desire it to transmit you a report on the subject. I have the honor to enclose my account herewith, and to subscribe myself,

Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JEAN NORMAND.

To the Hon.

The Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa.