

than one. We are not lending money, we are using it ourselves. We are paying our honest debts as stockholders in the Canal; we are acquiring wealth by the purchase, by carrying for the great western world, who must send their produce to lake Erie from thence. We can carry it cheaper and better than any body else. They pay our prices—they pay this interest and the sum besides; we may trade to their markets, they may trade to ours; we all seek the best market, and the more business is done in a place the less per centage can it be done for; thus the market of Lower and Upper Canada will be improved by our exertions. The Welland Canal and the St. Lawrence with the lakes, are one great canal or sea, and the mutual interest of both provinces require that these two improvements should go hand in hand. The revenues of the province are never incumbered by advances of money to works that gain more than interest. Her resources are strengthened by such works; and he hoped that not one hon. member would seriously oppose the measure. I am unwilling to believe that the interests of the province are to be sacrificed at the shrine of—what shall I call it?—I will leave the name to be given by those hon. gentlemen who think proper to oppose all publick improvements. I will support publick improvements—I will use my exertions to promote the growth, prosperity and improvement of the province by every laudable means in my power, and I hope and trust, on this occasion I shall find a very large majority of this House go with me.

Mr. WERDEN said, not that he was an enemy to publick improvement, but he was of opinion that the House would not be warranted in going the length contemplated. The hon. member said something about borrowing money for the roads. But what, he would ask, was the small pitance required for the improvement of the roads, compared to the immense sums wanted for the Welland Canal?—the great outlet to the ocean!—this province becoming one of the first nations of the earth! &c. &c. It may be a very captivating theme for popular declamation; but let us not go on so fast; let us not be carried away by eloquence of that kind, but act prudently and study our ways and means. He only wished to throw out these suggestions for hon. gentlemen's consideration, that they might not hereafter regret having swallowed up all the resources of the country in this one improvement.

Mr. MORRIS said:—From the applause which the hon. gentleman from Haldimand (Mr. Merritt,) received, I have no reason to hope that the sentiments I am about to deliver will meet with approbation from gentlemen on the opposite side. The hon. gentleman has given several reasons to induce this Committee to adopt the resolution for the purchase of the private stock—and one is, that, if the Canal were wholly in the hands of Government, private individuals who have claims for property would not make such exorbitant demands. This is a sort of reasoning which I cannot understand; but perhaps the hon. gentleman will be able to explain the matter. He says that the debts of the Company amount to £25,000: I wish he would state if this sum includes the whole amount due to persons whose property has been taken for the uses of the Company? or if it is wholly owing for work and labour, &c.? It is important to understand this; for, from the reason alluded to, it would seem that many claims for property are unsettled—else the feeling against the Company, which he speaks of, would not exist. The hon. gentleman says, that, if we make it a publick work, confidence in the undertaking would be unshaken, and the Government would be better able to controul the persons employed on the Canal, and, if they did not discharge their duty, they could be removed, and others appointed in their stead. This, Mr. Chair-

man, appear now, and says—If it in return of grant of with when liugness, it to argue, a degree than the latter promoted through: the navigation now the most perfect operation Queenston benefit as certainly prosper because of the to the most and therefore of commun western ceasing and so the complete Lawrence hon. gentleman to receive a sand pound the Welland the debts, the business when added short of £ young countrying? Is it king for the country because the new settling the inland the country of the neck the agriculture and some will bring providing mons—he the House great a del rest annual interest ourselves: but probation. to be more