

REPORT OF THE BURLINGTON BAY CANAL COMMISSIONERS.

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces in North America, &c. &c. &c.

THE Commissioners appointed by Your Excellency, in conformity to the provision of the several acts of the Legislature of this province, for making a navigable Canal between Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario,

MOST RESPECTFULLY REPORT,

That since our last Report, the season has been unfavorable for active operation, and although it was supposed, at the time it was made, that driving of piles must be delayed until the operation of the Dredging machine so far reduced the strata of sand as to facilitate that operation, yet the anxiety of the Contractors to get forward with the undertaking, induced them to persevere in driving them through the whole body of sand which composes the dividing ridge between Lake Ontario and Burlington bay, and have succeeded to the extent above eighty feet at two places. A considerable length of block work has also been put down in Burlington bay; indeed, as much as could be done without the dredging machine. But the difficulty of driving piles through a body of sand sixteen feet deep, (across the beach) is so great, that it is now proposed to be abandoned, except at either side and at both ends of the cut, so as to secure them, and then to reduce this body of sand so as to render the work more easy to be done, as was mentioned in a former report; and to also open a passage for vessels as speedily as possible, finishing the sides of the Canal at a future period, without interfering with its usefulness in the mean time; and as the irons for the dredging machine have arrived from Albany, and the different craft necessary to its use are nearly completed, a short time will suffice to bring it into operation.

The block work sunk last Fall in Lake Ontario, has not withstood the winter's storms so well as was expected; more however from its limited length and unfinished state, than from such a work not being adequate to resist the violence of the waves and ice. A new break-water is now framing, and the remains of the former one will be used to secure the centre of it; and as the season has now arrived when work can be done in Lake Ontario, and a sufficient quantity of timber being provided to complete the whole work, we do not anticipate any delay in the progress of it.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

Burlington Beach,
7th May, 1825.

Signed,

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JAS. CROOKS,
ROBT. NELLES,
JOHN WILLSON,
MANUEL OVERFIELD,
W. CHISHOLM.

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

The Commissioners appointed by your Excellency in conformity to the provisions of two several acts passed by the Legislature of this province, for making a navigable canal between Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario.

Most respectfully report,

That the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, wishing to avail themselves of the professional abilities of Mr. Hall, the Engineer, employed by us to superintend the Burlington Bay Canal, we, upon his employing a person of respectability to act in his absence, readily assented to his paying those provinces a visit, which we understand has been advantageous to them; and although his journey was prolonged much beyond the time expected, from contrary winds and bad weather, yet no serious inconvenience has resulted therefrom; and the only regret we feel is, that it should have prevented us from making our report within the time specified by the acts of the Legislature. This delay has been attended with an advantage, however, which we would not now be possessed of, had our report been made at an earlier period, from the circumstance of several heavy gales of wind from the North East testing the sufficiency of the breakwater, which, although not completed, gave protection in one instance to five vessels, and in another to six, which withstood their violence with safety. This is at once a gratifying circumstance, and a proof of the sufficiency of the work. The whole of the south wing of the breakwater being in length two hundred and forty feet, and seventy-five feet of the north wing is now raised to the total height of six feet above the surface of the Lake, nearly filled with stones, and one hundred and thirty-one feet of the decking is completed. The other parts of the works are proceeding with all due diligence, and in order to lay before your Excellency more precise information, as regards its present state of forwardness, we beg leave to submit copies of the Engineer's two last reports on the subject, along with this.