
SECOND REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

HURON AND ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
June 14th, 1869.

The select Committee to whom was referred the Petition of John Gordon and twenty thousand others, of the Province of Ontario, praying for the construction of the "Huron and Ontario Ship Canal," with power to send for persons and papers, and to report as to the practicability and expediency of the work, have the honor to report :

That this project has, for many years, engaged a large measure of public attention. In 1855, surveys of the route were made by Mr. Kivas Tully, C. E., who reported favorably thereon, and his Report was confirmed by that of Col. R. B. Mason, an eminent American Engineer. In 1856, the Parliament of the late Province of Canada incorporated a Company with powers to construct the work. In 1857, a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the late Province of Canada was appointed to enquire into and report on the projected work, and on the 9th June of that year, the Committee, through the late Joseph Hartman, Esq., M. P. P. for North York, reported strongly in favor of the enterprise, and stated that no work yet projected in Canada has equal claims with the proposed Canal, to a liberal grant of land. In 1864, a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the late Province of Canada was appointed to consider the practicability and propriety of constructing this Canal, and on 31st May of that year, that Committee, by their Chairman, Thomas D. McConkey, Esq., M. P. P., reported, approving of the Report of the previous Committee, and stating that, to Canada the project is scarcely less than vital, and having regard to the magnitude and importance of the work, the Committee suggested that a grant of land commensurate with the importance of the undertaking, should be made as one of the best means of securing the construction of the work.

Your Committee have to report that they have had submitted to them a large body of evidence in reference to the expediency and practicability, in an Engineering as well as a financial point of view, of the projected Canal.

Your Committee have had under their consideration a full and comprehensive Report of Mr. William Sykes, C. E., the resident Engineer of the Canal Company, on the general merits of the proposed Canal, containing a large amount of valuable commercial and other statistics bearing on the subject, and a full description of the Engineering features of the work, and the prospects for traffic to render it remunerative.

Mr. Capreol, on behalf of the Canal Company, submitted the proposal of a number of capitalists in the United States, to undertake one half of the contract for the construction, taking in payment one half of the capital stock of the Company—say twenty millions of dollars—provided the remaining half be undertaken by British or other contractors, and that the Company be aided by the grant of ten millions acres of land.