

ADDRESS of the Shubenaccadie Canal Company, to His Excellency  
Sir P. Maitland.

To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Peregrine Maitland, Knight  
Commander of the most honourable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's  
Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

The Memorial of the President and Directors of the Shubenaccadie Company.

May it please your Excellency :

THE association of which your memorialists are the officers was founded in 1826, for the purpose of connecting the harbour of Halifax by an inland navigation with the basin of Mines, at the head of the Bay of Funday.

For encouraging this important enterprize, the Provincial Assembly passed an Act under which letters patent of incorporation were granted to the Company, and its objects were further promoted by a donation of 15,000 £. from the Legislature, payable in proportion to the progress of the works.

With this aid, and subscription in Halifax and its vicinity of 18,000 £. towards raising the capital of 60,000 £. required for the undertaking, your memorialists were enabled to commence it, and have had the satisfaction of witnessing the public anxiety for its early completion.

For opening this canal, facilities so unusual exist in the deep and extensive lakes and river course of the Shubenaccadie, that on the whole line from Halifax Harbour to the basin of the Mines, a space of nearly 60 miles, only a short distance requires the operation of excavation and embankment, the remainder being now navigable water, or easily made so by the insertion of locks and dams at proper intervals. The extent of artificial works originally contemplated is particularly detailed in the accompanying Statement and Estimate, to which your memorialists respectfully refer ; and by which it will appear that the whole line could have been made navigable for ordinary coasting vessels drawing eight feet of water for 75,000 £. currency ; including the purchase of lands, and steam and tow boats, with all attendant expences, recent alterations, attended with very important advantages, have been adopted, by which this estimate is increased to about 84,000 £. for the whole.

For the execution of the five sections into which the canal line is divided, exclusive of the late additional works, tenders were received by your memorialists at the price of 62,000 £. ; but owing to the insufficiency of the present subscription, they were at first obliged to confine themselves to contracts for the completion of the second and third section : these, the most tedious and difficult, though not the most expensive, have been commenced, and are now on the point of completion for about 22,000 £.

The fourth section and part of the fifth have been recently contracted for at the price of 11,800 £. ; the shareholders have already paid up nearly all their subscriptions, a balance only of about of 3,000 £. remaining uncollected, and the works are rapidly proceeding under the superintendence of an engineer of experience and character.

The value and fertility of the districts around the Bay of Funday, and bordering on the Shubenaccadie, and the abundance of their agricultural produce, timber, coals, building materials, lime, gypsum, slate and other minerals, will, through this navigation, contribute more largely to the consumption and exports of Halifax, and when the lapse of a few years shall have brought these great internal resources into operation, will compensate this Company for its expenditure. But the very limited capital of this young colony is required for so many purposes more immediately productive, that, notwithstanding the munificence of the Legislature, there exists not at present much prospect of obtaining in this province the sum still wanting for the objects of the Company.

Under these circumstances, your memorialists find it necessary to apply through your Excellency to His Majesty's Government, respectfully to submit some views of the importance of this undertaking to the security and defence of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

During the late wars with the United States, the communication between Halifax and the city of St. John was principally maintained by the long and dangerous passage round the south and west coasts of the province into the Bay of Funday,