

Hon. John Ross Senator, who had been requested to attend the Committee, appeared, and was examined as follows, viz.:

16. Are you acquainted with the project for the construction of the "Huron and Ontario Ship Canal," and what is your opinion of its bearing on the general interests of the Dominion of Canada?—I have seen the profile and consider the project as of the greatest importance to the trade and commerce of the whole of the Dominion of Canada.

17. Are you acquainted, either personally or by repute, with Messrs. John Hawkshaw and A. M. Rendell, Civil Engineers, of London, England?—I have known them both slightly for the last fifteen or eighteen years.

18. Have you seen the written opinions expressed by those gentlemen, and what importance are you disposed to attach to them?—I have seen the written opinion of those gentlemen, (they were shown me by Mr. Capreol) and I consider their opinions of vast importance, as they are of the *highest* standing in their profession. Mr. Hawkshaw is Engineer of the "Metropolitan and Tunnel Extension Railway." He is one of the first Civil Engineers living. Mr. Rendell, although a younger man, also stands high in his profession.

19. Do you know Mr. George Wythes, of London, England? If so, please state what you know of his character, standing and reputed means?—Mr. Wythes is a large contractor. He is a contractor on Railways and other Public Works. He was a contractor on the Great Western Railway of Canada from Toronto to Hamilton. He is reputed to be of very great wealth, and to have made a great deal of money on contracts. I have known Mr. Wythes fourteen or fifteen years.

20. Do you consider that the proposed "Huron and Ontario Canal" is a work of sufficient importance to the public interests of the Dominion to entitle it to Legislative aid by a grant of land or otherwise?—Certainly, I do.

21. Do you know the Messieurs Freshfield, Solicitors of the Bank of England, and what can you state as to the value of their opinion on the financial prospects on the "Huron and Ontario Canal Company?"—I have no personal acquaintance with the Messieurs Freshfield, but I know them by reputation. Their opinion ought to be good, considering their financial respectability.

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For Report of Joseph Hartman, Esq., see Appendix (61) to Journals of Legislative Assembly of late Province of Canada, 9th June, 1857.

For: Report of Thomas D. McConkey, Esq., see Appendix (2) to Journals of Legislative Assembly of late Province of Canada, 31st May, 1864.