

With this exception the powers of the Company were not varied.

The time for commencing construction of the Canal was extended to the 1st May, 1916.

Sir Robert Perks visits Canada and makes new proposals to Hon. R. Rogers, on behalf of the Canal Company.

52. In April, 1913, Sir Robert Perks again visited Canada on behalf of the British Company and in the interests of the Canal. Before leaving London he conferred with responsible bankers, who stated their readiness to arrange the sale of the Canal Bonds subject to a Canadian Government guarantee of 4 per cent.

At the time of Sir Robert Perks' visit to Ottawa, the Canadian Parliament was engaged in serious and prolonged discussions as to the Naval Policy of the Government; and it was therefore impossible for the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Finance and Public Works to give the attention to the business of the Georgian Bay Canal, which they stated they would otherwise have done.

Notwithstanding the extreme pressure on their time, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Finance, Public Works and Railways were good enough to receive Sir Robert Perks and confer as to the proposals made by the Company to the late Government, and the further proposals which Sir Robert Perks was authorised by the British Company to submit to Sir Robert Borden's Government.

On the 10th April Sir Robert Perks had an interview with Mr. Rogers, the Minister of Public Works, and submitted to him the request of the British Company that the Government would include in the estimates of the Session a provision for \$5,000,000.

This proposal was embodied in a letter dated 11th April, 1913, from Sir Robert Perks to the Honourable Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, containing the following suggestions:—

“That the Government should this Session place Five million (\$5,000,000) Dollars in the Estimates for the Georgian Bay Canal.

“That such a sum should be spent as follows:—

“(A) Two million (\$2,000,000) Dollars in buying land and serving land notices, especially in places where important increments in value will certainly take place.

“(B) Two million (\$2,000,000) Dollars in starting the works at four places to be agreed with the Government—the places we would select would be the Back River at Montreal, the entrance to the Canal at Hull opposite Ottawa; the entrance to the Canal at North Bay; and the rock dredging at the mouth of the Canal at Georgian Bay.

“(C) A sum not exceeding One million (\$1,000,000) Dollars for Engineering, Legal and Administration Charges, including the past costs and expenses of the Company.”