

The means of the Company are exhausted—they are in debt—the Canal requires repair—without repair it must be, at least for one season, comparatively useless. Our enterprising neighbours are upon the alert, to seize any opportunity which may divert the trade and transport of the west from the waters of Canada.

Should any hesitation on our part to complete the Welland Canal, induce them to establish a route affording even minor advantages, Upper Canada must for a great length of time, perhaps forever, be deprived of the great benefits offered by the St. Lawrence, one of the great, if not the principal outlet of North America.

The Legislature have heretofore offered assistance to the canal, but generally in such sums, and on such conditions as not to enable the Company to proceed with so much energy and certainty as to insure the completion and success of the work. The resources of the Company have been in many instances expended, and their energies almost paralysed, in consequence of a series of accidents, which none of those most interested in the prosperity of the work, could foresee or prevent. And yet Mr. Wright gives it as his opinion, that the expenditure on the Canal must, under all circumstances, have been conducted with great economy. This opinion of Mr. Wright's is entitled to much consideration, and ought to remove all doubts, if still entertained, that the funds of the Company, and loans given by this Province at various times have been improvidently expended.

The Committee deem it unnecessary for them to recommend to your Honorable House, either of the propositions submitted by Mr. Yates, and can only hope that something may be done, during the present Session, to place the Welland Canal in such a situation as may be most beneficial to the public interest.

J. H. SAMSON, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, 9th January, 1834.*