

The Engineer submitted the accounts of the Department for salaries, &c. from 1st January to 1st May, amounting to £656 1s. 3d.

Ordered, That the sum of six hundred and fifty-six pounds, one shilling, and three-pence, be paid to Mr. Mills for the disbursements of the Department to 1st May.

The Agent submitted an account from John Carter, for printing £1 0 0
Do. do. from M. Tobin, for stone 1 4 0
Do. do. from A. Deroche, do. 0 10 0

Ordered, That the above accounts, amounting to two pounds, fourteen shillings, be paid.

The Agent submitted the tenders for supplying the timber required for the Lock foundations. The tender of Mr. Minor (£22 10s.) being the lowest was accepted.

A communication from Mr. William Johnston on the subject of his contract for construction of the Cornwall sewer, was read.

The Engineer having reported verbally on the several matters referred to, it was

Resolved, That the Board cannot entertain the application of Mr. Johnston.

An application from Mr. Duncan McTavish to be remunerated for damage to his property in consequence of the stones quarried being dressed on the premises—and requesting to be paid the third instalment of £50 for use of his quarry, as per agreement.

Resolved, That the Board cannot entertain the application of Mr. McTavish to be remunerated for supposed damage to his property in consequence of quarrying and dressing stone thereon, as per agreement.

Ordered, That the third instalment of £50, as per agreement, be paid to Mr. McTavish forthwith.

A communication from C. Truax & Co. was submitted, relative to the loss sustained by prosecuting the work on Sections 12 and 18 during the winter; to the subsiding of the embankment on Section No. 12, and to the respective prices allowed for embankment and excavation.

Ordered, That the communication of Messrs. Truax & Co. be referred to the Resident Engineer, to report thereon.

A communication from Messrs. R. & W. Hervey, Contractors on Section No. 1, was submitted relative to the giving up of that part of their contract, over water level, commencing at Station No. 63 to the foot of the Section, as proposed to them last fall;—also respecting the price to be fixed for the extra work performed by them from Station No. 63 to the top of the Section; and in reference to loose stone raised and collected by them by order of the Engineer.

Ordered, That the communication from Messrs. R. & W. Hervey be referred to the Resident Engineer to report thereon.

A communication from Mr. Nathaniel Tait (Contractor for the construction of the Bridge at Robinson's Creek,) was submitted, complaining that a portion of mason-work at the south end wall of said bridge was estimated and paid for as embankment at 6d. per yard, instead of stone work at 3s. 11d. per yard.

The Engineer reported upon the foregoing claim, as follows:

In reply to the complaint of Mr. Tait, relating to the settlement of the account of Robinson's Bridge, I have only to say that the walls of both abutments of said bridge were laid out upon the same plan, and the instructions given for the building of the walls were in both abutments alike, and the dimensions of the walls were the same in both cases. In the abutment called the south end wall of the bridge, the space within the walls was filled considerably with cobble stone, which stone was on the spot. The complaint is based upon the fact that this filling was not allowed as wall, which is certainly a proper distinction of the kind of work.

J. B. MILLS.

Cornwall, 12th May, 1836.

Resolved, That the complaint contained in the communication of Mr. Tait cannot be entertained.

An application from Mr. Sewell Cutler to be advanced £100 on account of a claim for damages alleged to be sustained by him, was submitted.

Resolved, That Mr. Cutler not having submitted any specific claim for the damages he alleges to have sustained, the Board cannot entertain his application.

A communication from Messrs. D. & J. L. Wilkinson, (Contractors for the construction of the Lock Gates) was submitted, stating the great advance in the price of Iron, and the consequent injury they have sustained by not being permitted to prosecute their work to completion, as they could have done, and on those grounds requesting that the percentage which has been retained from the amount of their estimates be paid up.

Ordered, That the percentage retained upon the estimates for the Lock Gates be paid to the Contractors.

Mr. Adam Dixon, (Contractor for Cornwall Dock) having expressed dissatisfaction with the specification of the work to be performed, which he alleges is contrary to his understanding of it when he submitted his tender, and having expressed a willingness to give up the contract;

Ordered, That the contract for the Cornwall Dock be annulled, and that the Engineer arrange with Mr. A. Dixon for the timber delivered.

An application from Mr. Geo. Crawford (Contractor for Locks No. 5 and 6,) to be paid the 5 per cent. retained from the estimated amount of work performed, was submitted.

Ordered, That the 5 per cent. retained from the estimated amount of work done on the Locks be paid to the respective Contractors.

A communication from Messrs. Chas. Kerr & Co. (Contractors for Section 2 and 3,) relating to alterations in the line of Canal, &c. was submitted, which, with other claims of theirs having been submitted to the joint consideration of the Consulting and Acting Engineers, it was

Ordered, That nine hundred and fifty pounds be advanced to Messrs. Charles Kerr & Co. on account of their Contracts, the sum of five hundred pounds to Messrs. R. & W. Hervey, and the sum of two hundred pounds to Mr. Isaac Hardy.

Several claims for damage to lands, buildings, orchards, &c. having been submitted, it was

Resolved, That a Committee from the Members of the Board be appointed to investigate and adjust such claims.

A communication from Mr. Mills, relative to the resignation of his office as Acting Engineer, and the appointment of a successor, was read as follows:

To the Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the St. Lawrence.

GENTLEMEN,

On the 30th March, I received a reply to my letter of the 18th March, by which I was informed that the Board considered that letter the resignation of my office as your Resident Engineer; immediately I set about making all the arrangements in my power to put matters in as good order as possible, previous to my final departure from your works.

In order that every thing may be well understood by my successor, it is desirable that he be appointed immediately, that I may communicate with him personally, making such necessary explanation as may be in my power. Therefore, if the Board desire it, I shall be pleased to render all the information in my power, until it is necessary for me to leave finally.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MILLS.

Cornwall, 11th May, 1836.

Mr. Mills' Letter of the 18th March, referred to in the foregoing communication, was read as follows:

To the Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the River St. Lawrence.

GENTLEMEN,

Existing circumstances seem to make it necessary for me to call your attention to the matter of my standing and relation to you. For some time past there has been shown decided evidence of dissatisfaction at the general course of conduct which I pursue in my business, and as decided evidence of a want of confidence in me as your Engineer. This being the case, the service has become embarrassing and unpleasant, and it is quite impossible for me to continue in such circumstances. This dissatisfaction and want of confidence has been exhibited—

1st. In official acts of the Board: