

this communication, as fully as our limited time permitted, all the information we could gather on these important questions without waiting until our report could be submitted.

By the categorical method of enquiry we have taken the sense of the community at large on all these questions, and in coming to a decision upon them, our labours have been very much facilitated by the methodical management of this voluminous evidence under the directions of the Secretary, as well as by his intimate acquaintance with the public works from the many years of his official connection with them both during and after construction.

In setting forth the Canal policy recommended by us, in the previous pages, and sustaining it by the facts and statements therein contained, the Secretary has been ably assisted in the historical and commercial portion, by Mr. J. G. Bourinot, who under his instructions, compiled the historical sketch of the Canals from official documents and other sources of information within the archives of the Dominion, and the commercial and statistical statements from the evidence submitted and from such further information as could be collected in the course of this enquiry.

We have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

HUGH ALLAN,
 C. S. GZOWSKI, Chairman.
 D. D. CALVIN,
 P. GARNEAU,
 ALEXANDER JARDINE,
 S. L. SHANNON,

SAMUEL KEEFER,

Secretary.

Ottawa, 24th February 1871.