

Mr. M'Clelan, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the Mining Interests, submitted their Report; and he having read the same, it was handed in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

“The Committee appointed on the 19th day of February last, to consider and report upon all matters referred to them relating to the Mining Interests of this Province, beg to submit the following Report:—

“The attention of the Committee has been directed to the recent Geological researches and surveys of the surrounding Colonies and States, and the desirability of procuring for this Province a similar survey and exploration, conducted upon thoroughly scientific principles.

“A Geological Report, compiled from an examination of a district so rich and varied in mineral resources as this Province, should be full and reliable in order to be practically useful; and the Committee disapprove of any further expenditure of public money for such purpose, unless as preliminary or with a view to such a report.

“The Committee have had before them Henry Y. Hind, Esquire, M. A., F. R. G. S., Professor of Geology, &c., from Toronto. Mr. Hind has been employed since 1857 by the Canadian Government, in making Geological explorations of the Red River, and other districts of the North West and Hudson's Bay Territories, also of a portion of the Labrador Peninsula. The Reports of these explorations, including reference to Topography and Natural History, and accompanied with maps, plans, and illustrations, have been prepared for use of the Canadian Government and the Colonial Office. Copies of all these reports and documents have been exhibited to your Committee, and from an examination of these, and from numerous references to the same in many of the leading Reviews and Newspapers of Great Britain, and the opinion of Sir Roderick Murchison, and other eminent scientific men, the ability of Mr. Hind, for successfully prosecuting a New Brunswick survey, is fully established.

“The interesting Report of Professor Bailey on the Mines and Minerals of New Brunswick, has also received the attentive consideration of your Committee, and the various descriptions and facts therein set forth, will be useful to any person hereafter engaged in a Geological survey of this Province. Considering the limited time at the disposal of Professor Bailey, and the desire of the Legislature and people of the Province, that a thorough exploration and survey of the mineral resources of the country, should be executed at an early date, and looking at the experience already had by Professor Hind, your Committee recommend that a preliminary exploratory Topographical survey of the land and coast boundaries of the Province, should be made under his superintendence, with a view to a thorough Geological survey, and for which the said preliminary survey would form a basis. The Committee recommend for this purpose the application of the amount, \$500, voted in supply the present year.

“The Committee have also had under consideration, as referred by order of the House, the Petition of Hugh Steves, of Hillsborough, in Albert, praying for relief from the operation of the eighth Section of Act 15 Victoria, Chapter 87, intituled ‘An Act to incorporate the Albert Mining Company.’ The Petitioner sets forth that he is the owner of about 100 acres of land included within the lease of one mile square, given by the Crown to John Duffy and Peter Duffy, and now held by the Albert Mining Company, by which he has been deprived of all claim to the coal and other minerals therein situated; and that by the eighth Section of the Act before referred to, the said Mining Company are empowered, under certain restrictions, to