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TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, *Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.*

Canada,
The Commissioners appointed by an Act passed at the last Session of the Legislature, entitled, "An Act granting to His Majesty a sum of money to defray the expense of erecting a Penitentiary in this Province," and for other purposes therein mentioned,—

BEG LEAVE MOST RESPECTFULLY TO REPORT:—

That in pursuance of the Act, their first object was to select a good site for the Prison. After examining, with great care, all the grounds in and near the Town of Kingston, it was found that no situation combining the advantages of perfect salubrity, ready access to the water, and abundant quarries of fine lime stone, could be obtained nearer the Town, than Lot Number Twenty, in the First Concession of the Township of Kingston, which is about a mile west of the Town,—The west half of this Lot, belonging to the heirs of the late Philip Pember, which contains One Hundred Acres of Land, reaching from Hatter's Bay, on Lake Ontario, to the rear of the First Concession, was accordingly purchased for the sum of One Thousand Pounds. The space between the Lake and the Highway, is about fifteen acres in extent, of which nine or ten acres will be enclosed by the walls of the Penitentiary; and on the west side is a fine Harbour, where vessels may approach within a few feet of the shore. Nothing, indeed, can surpass the convenience and beauty of this site, on which is found a quarry of the best lime-stone, amply sufficient for the construction of all the buildings and walls of the proposed Establishment. Twenty, or twenty-five acres on the front of this lot, would, perhaps, furnish all the room that is required for the buildings connected with the Penitentiary; and the Legislature might therefore (if they should see fit) direct the residue to be sold. The Commissioners are, however, of opinion that the land is worth the purchase money, and should be retained for public uses, especially as it appears to abound with quarries of the finest lime-stone, which it will, doubtless, be found profitable to open when Convicts are sentenced to hard labor at the Penitentiary. Probably it may become advisable to let a part of the lot on the rear, as soon as a system of Prison Discipline has been organized for the Establishment—but certainly it would not be desirable that any portion of it should be sold before the nature and value of the quarries had been fully and closely enquired into and understood. The Deed of conveyance for this land from the Heirs of Mr. Pember to the Government, is submitted with this Report. It has been drawn up by a professional Gentleman of this place, and is supposed by the Commissioners to be sufficient to secure the investment of the Title to it, according to the terms of the Act, in His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors. After having determined on the site of the intended structure, the next step on the part of the Commissioners was to select suitable assistants for building it—and with this view, two of their number proceeded in the month of June to Auburn, in the State of New-York, where, after some enquiry and negotiation, they engaged Mr. William Powers, the Deputy Keeper of the State Prison at that place, to superintend the building of the Penitentiary at Kingston, and agreed to allow him Three Hundred and Fifty Pounds per annum, for the space of two years. When it is recollected that this Gentleman was the individual who furnished the plan which was submitted to the Legislature during its last Session, and which then received its approbation, the value of his services in the construction of a Prison, in conformity to that plan, will be readily perceived. The Commissioners also engaged Mr. John Mills, of the same place, at the rate of Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds per annum, to act as Master Builder and general Foreman of the works;—they considered his assistance very important, on account of his experience in this particular branch of architecture—and they are satisfied that as his general knowledge of every department of mechanical labor that is carried on at the Penitentiary, will enable him to act as foreman in each of those departments, a considerable saving of expense will arise from employing him in his present capacity.

And in order that a correct account of labor performed might be faithfully kept, and the occasional absence or neglect of workmen be duly noted and checked, a Clerk has been hired at the rate of One Hundred Pounds per annum. The duty of this Clerk, besides what has been already stated, is to keep the general accounts of the Board, draw up Contracts, examine Bills, pay the men under the eye of the Superintendent, and record, when requisite, the proceedings of the Board. The total expense thus incurred, for salaries of Officers, amounts to Seven Hundred Pounds per annum—and the Commissioners do not think it can be reduced, with due regard to the public advantage, or the effectual and really economical attainment of the object of the Legislature.

The amount appropriated by the Act for the erection of the Penitentiary is Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pounds, payable in three equal sums of Four Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-six Pounds, Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence, available on the first day of May in each year, commencing with the present one. The sum received this year for the building of the Prison, has been reduced, by the purchase of the land, to Three Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-six Pounds, Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence, and the manner in which that amount has been applied will appear by the account current, abstract and vouchers, herewith respectfully submitted.

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