

REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B., *Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces, &c. &c. &c., on the most eligible route for a Canal between Lake Simcoe and the Rice Lake, and on the practicability and probable expense of connecting these Lakes.*

BY N. H. BAIRD,

CIVIL ENGINEER,

& M. I. C.-E. L.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THAT in accordance with your Excellency's commands, conveyed to me in Lieutenant Colonel Rowan's communications of the 29th May and 16th June last, and in the spirit of the particular instructions conveyed in the latter, in conformity with the Address of the House of Assembly of date 16th April last, viz :—"To examine the most eligible route for a Canal between Lake Simcoe and the Rice Lake, by a series of running levels, and to report to your Excellency, for the information of the House at its next Session, respecting the practicability and expense of connecting these Lakes."

I have, in consequence, the honor to state for your Excellency's information, that upon the 18th day of June last, having completed my preliminary arrangements, in providing proper assistance and canoes, in which I found more difficulty than I anticipated, and having engaged the services of Mr. F. P. Rubidge, Deputy Provincial Surveyor, for the surveying department, I proceeded to the inspection and examination of the country between Rice Lake and Lake Simcoe, conceiving it more in order to follow up the route from the Bay of Quinte, as detailed in my former report to your Excellency on the proposed improvements on the River Trent, in 1833, than to reverse, and commence from Lake Simcoe—the result of which inspection, levels, survey, &c., I shall endeavor, with as much perspicuity and brevity as the nature of the important subject will admit, to lay before your Excellency, assuming, although not expressed in my instructions, or in the Address from the House, the same scale of navigation as that reported on for the improvement of the Trent, viz :—for locks 134 x 33 x 5 feet water as the data upon which to proceed ;