

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Commons of Lower-Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled.

THE Legislature having, in the year 1829, voted a sum of money for exploring the Country lying between the Rivers St. Maurice and Ottawa, the undersigned had the honor to be appointed to superintend the said Exploration, and make a Report thereof to your Honorable House; and a further sum having been voted during the last Session for completing the said Exploration in another direction further southward, the undersigned were again appointed for the said purpose, that is to say, to explore that tract of country lying between the River St. Maurice and the River Ottawa, in the rear of the settlements, and to obtain certain information whether it be practicable to open a Road, from some point up the River St. Maurice to the Township of Grenville on the River Ottawa; and to explore the said tract of country generally.

Having had reason to be well satisfied with the services of the Gentlemen who had been employed on the last expedition, the Commissioners, with the approbation of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, determined to place this second expedition under the superintendence of two of the gentlemen in question, viz: Lieutenant Ingall of the 15th Regiment, and John Adams, Esquire, Surveyor; (Lieutenant Nixon, of the 66th Regiment, who accompanied them on the former expedition, having left the country for England,) and after having procured all the necessary documents for their guidance, the Exploring party was organized.—Instructions were drawn up, which were delivered to the party, and of which a copy is annexed to this Report under the letter A.—The party then left Montreal on the 24th of September last.

The Commissioners refer to the Journal which accompanies this Report for a detailed account of the expedition from the time the party left Montreal on the 24th of September aforesaid, to that of their arrival at Quebec on the 22nd November last.

The said Journal, (which is marked B.) is accompanied by an unbound book containing remarks made by Mr. Ingall and by another containing those made by Mr. Adams:—

1st. By a Plan of the lands which have been granted, and of those which have been surveyed in the tract of country lying on the route taken by the party:

2nd. By another Plan showing the obstacles to be surmounted on the said route.

According to this Journal and the Plans that accompany it, it appears that the Exploring party, proceeded in pursuance of the instructions they had received, to the Township and Village of Grenville on the River Ottawa, whence they started on the 26th of September, and passed in the rear of the most northerly settlements along a line which they traced and nearly in a north easterly direction (diverging from time to time towards one side or the other according to the nature of the ground,) through the Townships of Grenville, Chatham, Abercrombie, Kilkenny, Kildare and Rawdon, the Seigniorie Duillebout, and the Township of Brandon, &c. until they reached the Banks of Lake Maskinongé, in the Seigniorie of Lanaudière.—Thence they proceeded through the Townships of Hunterstown and Caxton, whence they took a nearly south easterly course to Three Rivers, and lastly that they arrived at Quebec on the 22nd of November.

The Commissioners have much pleasure in remarking the facility with which a Road of communication may be opened in conformity with the views of the Legislature, from the River St. Maurice to the Township of Grenville on the River Ottawa; and that the land along the whole line followed by the Exploring party, and even to the distance of about fifteen miles towards the north west as far as the summit of the mountains, is well adapted for cultivation, and that settlements might therefore be formed there with advantage.

According to the information the Commissioners have obtained, as well from the Exploring party, as from other persons, especial-

ly Indians, they think it right to suggest the necessity of organizing another expedition to be undertaken next summer, for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of that tract of country which lies behind the chain of mountains seen from the River St. Lawrence, in a north westerly direction.—The Expedition in question would ascend the River St. Maurice as far as the River Mattawa and thence continue to proceed towards the west, and come out either by the River aux Lièvres or the River de la Petite Nation, which run into the River Ottawa.

The Commissioners lay their Accounts before the House, accompanied by vouchers, &c. under the letter C. by which it appears that they have in their hands a balance of £96 16s. 10d. out of which they have to pay several accounts which they have not yet been able to procure, but which cannot amount to a sum equivalent to the said balance.

Before they close their Report, the Commissioners think it right to add, that Mr. Adams, as well as Mr. Ingall, have respectively performed the duties assigned them, in such a manner as to deserve the highest praise for the assiduity, perseverance, enterprise and talent which they have displayed; and the Commissioners, in consideration of the services performed gratuitously by Mr. Ingall last year, and the sacrifices he has made by again giving his services gratuitously during the present year (he having a numerous family to support), thought it right to present him on his return from the expedition, with a sum of money equal to Mr. Adams', for the present year, and they flatter themselves that the step they have taken will not be disapproved by the Legislature.

The whole nevertheless humbly submitted.

Quebec, 28th February 1831.

T. POTHIER,

Commissioner for the Exploration of the country situate between the Rivers St. Maurice and Ottawa.

[A.]

Memorandum for the guidance of the party appointed to continue the Exploration of that tract of country situate between the Rivers St. Maurice and Ottawa, under Act of the Provincial Legislature, 13th Parliament, 3d Session.

The Commissioners named under the Act of the preceding Session of the Legislature for the conducting of the Exploration of the country above mentioned, having been re-appointed to carry into effect the enactments of the last Session, for the continuance of the same service, have much gratification in being enabled again to place its fulfilment under the skilful direction of two of the same gentlemen who last year accomplished the task, with acknowledged credit to themselves; the satisfactory result of their assiduous labours and scientific observations having so fully met the approbation of the several Branches of the Legislature, that with the enlightened view of enlarging the fund of information gained by the interesting researches thus commenced, a fresh appropriation of monies has been granted for the furtherance of the examination of the tract of country lying between the Rivers St. Maurice and Ottawa, with a view to ascertain the extent of its resources and capabilities.

Appendix
(Z.)

1st March.