

ing to within less than a mile of Halifax harbour. To improve the river, and join it and the lakes by a succession of canals and locks, so as to form a continuous navigation from the Basin of Minas to the Atlantic, across the province, was the grand design of the Canal projectors. To deter them they had a height of ninety three feet to surmount; but to encourage them they had—that great requisite in such undertakings—a sufficiency of water at the highest level: the first Shubenacadie lake, ninety three feet above Halifax harbour, having a depth of sixty two feet water, and other reservoirs being contiguous to it. We now have taken a general view of the design of the undertaking; and together with the chief advantages, the intercourse with the vast western agricultural, mineral, and timber districts, we should recollect the incalculable benefit which such a line will occasion all along its course; the settlements, the roads, it will call into existence, and the indefinite prosperity which such a work must prepare for some distant period.

This Canal was contemplated so long ago as the year 1797, and a survey was then made; in 1815 a second survey was made; in 1824 the opinion of an eminent British Civil Engineer was had on the subject, another survey, report and estimate were made; and in July 1826 the work was commenced. The estimate for the completion of the work was about £55,000 currency, and the capital of the company was fixed at £60,000, distributed into shares of £25 each. The work was commenced with £32,800 in hands; but on account of alterations, accidents, and unforeseen exigencies, the available funds were exhausted long before half the work was completed. In 1829 the Assembly of the Province guaranteed, to the amount of £1500 annually for ten years, the interest on all loans made to the canal company. In May 1829 the Secretary of the company, Charles Fairbanks, Esq. sailed for England to endeavour to procure the necessary funds in the Mother Country. He succeeded in procuring a loan of £20,000 from government, and in disposing of shares to the amount of £27,000, making in all an additional sum of upwards of £50,000 currency. On this the canal has been advancing with considerable rapidity, and at a meeting held the 28th of February, 1831, a Report was made of the state and prospects of the company's