

deemed necessary to refer again to them, further than to say that they had in view the construction of a canal of much less capacity than that now contemplated, and such as would be quite inadequate to the requirements of the present time.

On the whole, it was found that the documents did not contain sufficient information to enable a reliable opinion to be formed of a work of this extent, nature and importance; still it was clearly stated that a line between Cumberland Basin and Baie Verte was the most favorable route of any that could be selected for the purpose.

I therefore recommended that authority be obtained to make such surveys and examinations of the isthmus, &c., as would enable the whole subject to be laid fully and clearly before the Government.

This was subsequently authorized, and in July, 1870, Mr. G. F. Baillairgé was detailed to the duty of conducting the surveys and examinations required, which fully occupied him until the early part of June, 1871.

In February of that year, Mr. Samuel Keefer, secretary to the Canal Commission, made a special report to that body "on the practicability of the Baie Verte Canal," making various suggestions on the subject, which, together with the estimated cost (\$3,250,000) of carrying them out on the scale recommended, are endorsed by Mr. C. S. Gzowski, one of the Canal Commissioners.

In April, 1872, Mr. Baillairgé submitted a carefully prepared map of all that section of the country between Cumberland Basin and Baie Verte, and for a width of fully 10 miles, skewing minute soundings of the harbors at both ends, accompanying which were profiles of six different survey or trial lines, and a report containing much valuable information relative to the tides, harbors, rivers and general nature of the country.

The principal features of the scheme recommended for adoption are to make the low water level of the canal about the height of the lowest neap tides in Cumberland Basin, or about 85 feet over datum\*—bottom to be 69 feet over datum—and to make the high water level about two feet under ordinary spring tides, or 88 feet over datum, so as to leave a range of 3 feet for lockage purposes, &c., during neap tides.

This reserve, it is stated, should be as large as possible, but its height should be such as not to interfere permanently with the drainage of the marshes; if, however, the quantity thus retained be found insufficient, some of the rivers which empty into Cumberland Basin might be converted into reservoirs.

For a canal, accessible at all times of the tide, four locks are to be placed at the

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\* The assumed datum line of all levels marked on the map, shewn on the profiles, or referred to in the report, is 50 feet below ordinary low water of spring tides of the Bay of Fundy.