

and during the Canadian wars, it was found extremely difficult to get stores dragged up the St. Lawrence, to supply our forces on the lakes ; the rapids and the enemy greatly hindered the forwarding of the necessary supplies along the frontier. On the return of peace, various methods were proposed to remove this obstacle, by canalling the St. Lawrence, constructing better roads, or connecting a chain of small rivers and lakes, that lay between Lake Ontario and the Ottawa river. The last of these methods was considered the best ; since, if found practicable, it was conceived that it might not only answer for transporting stores safely, either in times of war or peace, but might also be the means of opening an important tract in the interior of Canada. Various persons considered capable of forming a proper judgment of this scheme, were sent through the route to report on the same, by orders both of the Provincial and Imperial Parliament ; and all accounts seeming very favourable, the construction of the Rideau Canal, by the latter, was determined upon. In the autumn of 1826, I was ordered to make a survey, and after a very fatiguing task, reported thus to my worthy commander, Lieutenant-colonel By.