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RIDEAU CANAL.

COPY of LETTER from the SECRETARY of the  
ORDNANCE, transmitting Documents respecting  
the EXPENDITURE upon the WORKS of the  
RIDEAU CANAL in *Canada*; together with a  
Copy of the TREASURY MINUTE thereon.

(*Mr. Rice.*)

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
1 June 1832.*

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R I D E A U C A N A L.

COPY of LETTER from the SECRETARY of the ORDNANCE, dated 21st May 1832, respecting the EXPENDITURE upon the WORKS of the RIDEAU CANAL in Canada; together with a Copy of the TREASURY MINUTE thereon.

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LETTER from *R. Byham*, Esq. to the Right Hon. *T. Spring Rice*,  
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Office of Ordnance, 21st May 1832.

REFERRING you to my communications of the 17th and 20th February last, transmitting various Documents connected with the progress of an Expenditure upon the Works of the Rideau Canal;—

I have the honour, by command of the Master General and Board of Ordnance, to forward to you, for the purpose of being submitted to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a further Letter from Lieut-Colonel By on the same subject, to which is annexed a Report from the Inspector General of Fortifications, dated the 18th instant; and, as the Papers accompanying the said Letter, are extremely voluminous and would occupy a considerable period in copying, the Master General and Board, in order to save time, are induced to send the same in original, with the Board's request that they may be returned as soon as they can be conveniently spared;—and if it should be their Lordships' desire to be furnished with Copies of those Documents, the Master General and Board will order the same to be prepared, on receiving back the Papers, with a notification of their Lordships' wish to that effect; and with any further communication which their Lordships may consider it necessary to make to this Department on the subject in question.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

(signed) *R. Byham.*

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LETTER from Lieut.-Colonel *By*, Royal Engineers, to Colonel *Nicolls*,  
Commanding Royal Engineers, Canada.

SIR,

Commanding Royal Engineer Office,  
Rideau Canal, 27th Feb. 1832.

NO Notifications having been made to me, that my progress Report to the 31st December 1830, forwarded through Colonel Durnford, Royal Engineers, has been received by the Inspector General of Fortifications, I have the honour of forwarding a Duplicate of the same for the information of the Master General and Right honourable and Honourable Board, with additional sheets, showing the amount expended to the 31st December 1831, and the sum required to complete the Canal; also, an Abstract (Z.), exhibiting the Total Expenditure from the commencement of that work to the 31st December last, and the amount which will be required during the present year to complete the Water Communication; and I fully expect that the Canal will be opened throughout its whole extent by the 1st May next.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John By*, Lieut.-Colonel, Royal Engineers.

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—No. 20.—

Received on 12th March, and forwarded on to the Inspector General of Fortifications.

Quebec, 17th March 1832.

(signed) *Gust<sup>s</sup> Nicolls*, Colonel,  
Commanding Royal Engineers, Canada.

Forwarded for the information of the Master General and Board, with reference to my Minute of the 4th November last, forwarding Colonel Durnford's Report of 15th July 1831.

It will be seen by a perusal of the present communication, that Lieut.-Col. By, when he wrote this Letter, contemplated the completion of the Rideau Canal by the first of this month; and it appears by the Abstract (Z.) that the total expenditure up to the 31st December 1831, was £.715,408. 15. 6., being £.22,742. 15. 6. more than has been voted by Parliament; and that a further sum of £.60,615. 10. would probably be expended for the completion of the Canal, making a total of £.776,024. 5. 6. and an excess of £.83,358. 5. 6. beyond what is already voted by Parliament. I have however to observe, that this amount only provides for the Civil and Military Establishments, up to the date of the contemplated completion of the Work. It is therefore probable there will be further excess on this Item (23.)

Columns 9 and 10 show the expected saving and excess on the respective Items of the Estimate of 31st December 1830. I have marked opposite each sum in those columns, the number of the page in the annexed copy of Lieut.-Colonel By's Report of 14th January 1831, where his detailed explanations of the causes of these Savings and Excesses may be found.

The Sums stated necessary for Blockhouses and Land Defences (£.27,750) included in the Abstract, do not form a part of the Canal Work, and therefore I conclude from Lieut.-Colonel By's explanations, will not be expended until further orders, although I apprehend that the total now stated (£.803,774. 5. 6.) will eventually be required for the completion of the Canal with Bridges and Blockhouses.

18th May 1832.

*N. B.*

19th May 1832.

Ordered, That these Papers be immediately sent to the Treasury, being previously submitted to the Master General.

*T. F. K.*

21st May 1832.

Approved.

*J. K.*

Copy of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 25 May 1832.

MY LORDS have under their serious consideration the Letter from the Secretary of the Ordnance of the 21st instant, transmitting to this Board a Letter from Colonel By, of 27th February 1832, accompanied by various explanatory Documents and Accounts, upon the subject of the Expenditure on the Works at the Rideau Canal to the close of 1831, and of that required to complete the Canal, the opening of which was expected to take place in the course of the present month.

My Lords will take into their future consideration these voluminous Accounts and Papers; but they cannot delay expressing their opinion to the Master General and Board of Ordnance on the conduct of Colonel By in carrying on this Work.

It

It appears from that Officer's Letter, and from the Report of the Inspector General of Fortifications thereon, that Colonel By had actually expended to the close of the year 1831, £.715,408. 15. 6., being £.22,742. 15. 6. more than had been granted for this Work by Parliament; and that without waiting for any authority from this country, he has gone on during the present year with a further Expenditure, entirely unsanctioned, and which it is stated will probably amount to £.60,615. 10., making an excess of £.83,358. 5. 6. beyond the amount granted by Parliament. The Expenditure which was contemplated for this Canal, when the subject was immediately under the consideration of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1831, and the whole Expenditure for which any order has at any time been given by any competent authority, is £.693,448., exclusive of £.69,230. for Blockhouses and Works of Defence not sanctioned. In order therefore to complete the Work, Colonel By has, upon his own responsibility, thought proper to expend no less than £.82,576. My Lords assuming from these Papers that the Work has actually been carried on to its completion, since the date of Colonel By's Letter of February last, and that the expense has not been less than the sum at which he then calculated it.

It is impossible for My Lords to permit such conduct to be pursued by any public functionary. If My Lords were to allow any person whatever to expend with impunity, and particularly after repeated increases of the original Estimate, upon any work under his superintendance, a larger amount than that sanctioned by Parliament and by this Board, there would be an end of all control, and My Lords would feel themselves deeply responsible to Parliament. They desire, therefore, that the Master General and Board will take immediate steps for removing Colonel By from any further superintendance over any part of the Works for making Canal Communication in Canada, and for placing some competent person in charge of those Works, upon whose knowledge and discretion due reliance can be placed; to whom must be furnished a Statement of the Estimates and Grants, and who must be strictly charged upon no account whatever to exceed the amount of the Grants.

My Lords further desire that Colonel By may be forthwith ordered to return to this country, that he may be called upon to afford such explanation as My Lords may consider necessary upon this important subject.

Let Copies of these Papers and of this Minute be forthwith prepared, with a view to their being laid before The House of Commons.

