

HOUSE No. 326.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To the Honorable A. H. BULLOCK, *Speaker of the House of Representatives* :

The Joint Committee of the legislature appointed, under the twentieth chapter of the Resolves of 1861, to complete the exploration, surveys, plans, and estimates of the Ship Canal to connect Barnstable Bay with Buzzard's Bay, as provided by the eighty-fourth chapter of the Resolves of the year 1860, have completed their labors, and submit the following

R E P O R T :

The Committee on entering upon the discharge of their duties found that a plan of operations had been commenced by the Joint Committee on this subject of 1860, consequently it was left for them to carry out and complete the investigations already begun, and although they have been protracted beyond their expectations, they have completed them at the earliest possible moment, and in presenting their report desire to state in what condition they found the work, and what has been done under their supervision.

The committee of 1860 received from Brigadier-General Joseph G. Totten, U. S. Engineer; Professor A. D. Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey; and Commodore Charles H. Davis, U. S. Navy, commissioners on Boston Harbor, a

report, embodying reports and plans of officers of the United States Coast Survey, and recommending the appointment of a first-class engineer to superintend the surveys and estimates for the proposed Ship Canal.

By the Resolve of 1861, under which the Committee were appointed, they were authorized to employ George R. Baldwin to superintend said surveys; and an agreement having been made with him by the committee of 1860, he was retained in the work, according to the terms which had been previously agreed upon.

Mr. Baldwin has been assisted by J. G. Chase, of Cambridge, through the entire work, and by William F. Durfee, of New Bedford, in taking soundings in Back River Harbor, for the purpose of excavating a ship channel. Mr. Baldwin's report and estimates, together with a map drawn by Mr. Chase locating the Canal, with accompanying cross-section profiles from Back River Harbor along the line of the Monumet River to Barnstable Bay, have been completed, and the Committee take great pleasure in commending these gentlemen for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duties.

The commissioners on Boston Harbor suggested in their report that further investigations should be made in Barnstable Bay, for the purpose of determining the temperature of the water; accordingly the Committee employed Henry Mitchell, Assistant United States Coast Survey, who made the necessary experiments, and his report is presented, supplementary to the report made by him to said commissioners in 1860.

By the direction of the Committee a new line, known as the Scusset route, for the entrance of the Canal into Barnstable Bay, was surveyed and located north of Sagamore Hill, as will appear upon the map, by which route about one-half a mile in distance is saved, and the deep marshes near Sagamore Hill, which have always been objectionable, are avoided. By the Resolve of 1860, under which the first committee were appointed, they were directed to make their report and have it filed in the office of the Secretary of State, who was authorized to print the same. The Committee think it of the utmost importance that all the plans and statistics bearing upon this subject should be placed together in one report, in order that it may be readily investigated, and the whole history of this long-

mooted question arranged so as to be easy of access and convenient for the reader. For this purpose the two committees will unite in their report, and file their plans and estimates with the Secretary of State.

The United States government, through their commissioners on Boston Harbor, have materially assisted in the surveys ordered by the legislature; and it was the wish of the commissioners, and the intention of the committee of 1860, to submit the results of the surveys to them, and have their opinion upon the subject printed with the final report. This the Committee think is desirable, considering the eminent ability of the commissioners, and the fact that it will be done without expense to the Commonwealth, and cause but a brief delay in the printing of the report, which will then have the rare merit of having been revised by the most able engineers in the service of the United States government. And especially is this desirable, for in the opinion of the Committee, if this work is ever undertaken, assistance will be required of the general government, and it is highly important that the engineers who directed the surveys in the beginning, should have an opportunity of examining the results, which will be submitted to them.

The subject has now been fully investigated; all that modern science can determine has been revealed, and the facts will be presented, so that all interested in the proposed improvement may, by careful consideration, decide upon the practical value of the work, and to what extent the State shall aid in the enterprise.

G. M. FISK,
GEO. A. SHAW,

Senate.

R. A. PEIRCE,
ANSEL LEWIS,
JOHN S. E. ROGERS,
GEO. H. BROWN,
S. O. WHITMORE,

House.

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THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

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