

Report of select committee on the petition of Walter Boswell and others.

The select committee to whom was referred the petition of Walter Boswell and others, praying to be incorporated under the name and style of the president, directors and company of the Cobourg Harbour, beg leave to report as follows:

Your committee are convinced from the evidence they have received, that it is expedient to comply with the prayer of the Petitioners to be incorporated into a company in the manner proposed by them, for the constructing a Harbour at Cobourg; but, upon the scale proposed by the petitioners, the principal advantage to be derived from such a harbour, would be chiefly confined to Cobourg, and the country in the rear and adjacent thereto, and to vessels loading and unloading thereat.

Your committee, when they take into consideration the state of the revenue of the Province, are of the opinion, that the prayer of the petitioners for public aid, ought not to be complied with, as from the evidence accompanying this Report, of several masters of vessels, the Har-

bour could not afford protection for vessels passing up and down the lake in any weather.

All which they respectfully submit.

JAMES LYONS,
Chairman.

Committee Room,
House of Assembly,
January, 1829,

Proceedings of the Committee upon the Petition of Walter Boswell and others, praying to be incorporated into a company to form a Harbour at Cobourg on Lake Ontario.

House of Assembly 20th January, 1829.

Committee met.

JAMES LYONS, Esq. Chairman,
JOHN ROLPH,
PETER PERRY,
GEORGE LONGLEY,
JOHN KILBORN, Esqrs. members.

Petition read.

Witnesses examined.

Captain Charles McIntosh.

QUESTION—What vessel do you command and how long?

ANSWER—I sail the Schooner Superior, and have sailed the lake 11 years.

Q. Are you acquainted with Cobourg, and the advantages of a harbour there?

A. I am, but I am of opinion that no general advantage would result to the trading vessels generally. It would certainly be of advantage to Cobourg and the country in the rear.

Will you explain how it can be of no general advantage to an additional harbour on the coast?

A. Because it would afford no shelter in stress of weather, upon the plan shewn me, as it would be dangerous to run in: in severe weather I would decidedly run for Presqu'Isle, which is a natural harbour.

Q. Of what advantage would it be to Cobourg and the country in the rear?

A. The vessels which now frequent Cobourg, have no place of shelter there; and are often unable in Autumn and Spring, from the weather, to discharge their cargoes. They are sometimes obliged, in heavy weather, to lie off and on, waiting for suitable weather; and sometime obliged to bear away for Presqu'Isle. I think that more vessels would be lost, in bad weather, from trying to run into that harbour, than in sailing from it.

Q. Do you think any harbour could be there constructed affording safe refuge in any weather; and if so, at what probable expense?

A. I certainly do—but I apprehend the expense would be very great; as the works must be upon a far more extended scale than the one now proposed.

MR. WILLIAM MCINTOSH,
EXAMINED.

Q. How long have you sailed this lake?

A—I have sailed the lake about 7 years.

Q.—Are you acquainted with Cobourg, and the advantages of a harbour there?

A—I think the chief advantage would be confined to Cobourg, and the settlements on the Rice lake.

Q.—Will you explain how it can be of no general advantage to have an additional Harbour on the coast? And of what advantage would it be to Cobourg and the country in the rear?

A.—I think, that in 8 cases of ten it would not be available for vessels generally in bad weather; but it would be useful to vessels in discharging and receiving cargoes, and in having a safe place while waiting there.

Q.—Do you think any harbour could be there constructed affording safe refuge in any weather? and if so, at what probable expense?

A—I think one of such general use might be constructed, but at a heavy expense.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM BOWKETT,
EXAMINED.

Q.—What vessel do you command, and how long?

A.—I command the Schooner Canadian, and am on the lake about 7 years.

Q.—Are you acquainted with Cobourg, and the advantages of a harbour there? and how far do you agree with the testimony of Messrs. C. & W. McIntosh, read to you?

A.—I fully agree with it in all particulars.

CAPTAIN JOHN MCINTOSH,
EXAMINED.

Q.—What vessel do you command, and how long?

A.—Schooner Brothers—On the lake about 12 years.

Q.—Are you acquainted with Cobourg, and the advantages of a harbour there? and do you agree with the testimony of the preceding witnesses now read to you?

A.—I fully agree in opinion with them.