

**REPORT OF COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED BY
THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
UNDER THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF
THE LEGISLATURE, OF APRIL 22, 1862, IN
RESPECT TO THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE
CANALS FOR NATIONAL PURPOSES, NO. 174**

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Report of Commissioner, Appointed by the Governor of the State of New York, Under the Concurrent Resolution of the Legislature, of April 22, 1862, in Respect to the Enlargement of the Canals for National Purposes, No. 174 by Samuel B. Ruggles

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SAMUEL B. RUGGLES

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REPORT
OF
SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,
COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK,
Under the Concurrent Resolution of the Legislature, of April
22, 1862, in respect to the
ENLARGEMENT OF THE CANALS
FOR NATIONAL PURPOSES.

Transmitted by the Governor to the Legislature, April 8th, 1863.

ALBANY :
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State of New York.

No. 174.

IN ASSEMBLY,

April 8, 1863.

REPORT

OF THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED UNDER THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF APRIL 22, 1862, RELATIVE TO ENLARGING THE CANALS OF THIS STATE FOR NATIONAL PURPOSES.

STATE OF NEW YORK:
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
ALBANY, *April 8, 1863.* }

To the Legislature:

In compliance with your resolution of this day I transmit herewith the accompanying report of the Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles, commissioner appointed pursuant to the concurrent resolution of the Legislature adopted April 22, 1862.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

REPORT.

To His Excellency HORATIO SEYMOUR,

Governor of the State of New York :

By virtue of the concurrent resolution of the Legislature, adopted April 22d, 1862, and the appointment by your official predecessor pursuant to that resolution on the 6th of May following, the undersigned was specially delegated to attend at Washington, in behalf of the State, to invite the attention of the General Government to the measures proposed in the act of the said 22d of April, "to adapt the canals of this State to the defence of the northern and northwestern lakes," and to "the great importance of those measures to the national interests."

Under the requirement of the letter of authority appointing the undersigned, he now respectfully presents the following

REPORT :

In the discharge of the duty committed to the undersigned, pursuant to the concurrent resolution of the Legislature of the 22d of April last, he has attended at Washington on numerous occasions, and during a large portion of the period embraced in the two sessions of Congress, between the 12th of May, 1862, and the 10th of February following. Throughout that period he has endeavored, to

the best of his ability, fully to present the subject embraced in the concurrent resolution of the Legislature, to the consideration of the President and of the Congress of the United States. In so doing, he has personally attended before the President and several of the Heads of Departments, and also before the various committees of the Houses of Congress, who have had the subject in charge. He has also attended and assisted at several meetings of members of Congress, informally assembled to consider the merits of the proposed measures, and has been engaged in constant and daily consultation and conference on the subject with individual members.

The letter of authority under which he acted, expressly permitting him to choose his "own time and manner for accomplishing the object sought," he has deemed it proper and necessary, by extensive correspondence and otherwise, to collect and embody the leading facts of the case, and to present them, from time to time, in behalf of the State, in written memorials and other statements, submitted to the President and to the members of Congress collectively and individually, together also with official letters from canal officers of the State, and other persons able to impart authentic information.

Commencing with the 14th of May last, the undersigned has reported, from time to time, to Governor Morgan, and since the first of January last, to yourself, in respect to the condition and progress, including the defeat (believed to be temporary) on the ninth of February last, of the bill introduced into Congress to carry out the national measures proposed by the Legislature of New York. The report to your Excellency of the 2d of April instant,

refers to the important proceeding instituted on the 2d of March last, by a large number of the Senators and Representatives in the last Congress (ninety-eight in number), to call a National Convention at Chicago, on the first Tuesday of June next, practically for the purpose, among others, of presenting with undiminished force to the next Congress, the high considerations of national importance, military, commercial and political, involved in the adequate enlargement of the canals between the valley of the Mississippi and the Atlantic.

For the more convenient examination of the whole matter by the Governor, and also by the Legislature, should they wish to do so, the reports above mentioned are now embodied herewith in chronological order, and in connection with other documents necessary to present the subject intelligibly.

The reports and documents thus arranged, will exhibit, among other matters—

1st. The preliminary legislative proceedings and other public movements, leading to the passage of the act of the 22d of April last, and explanatory of the motives of the Legislature.

2d. The nature and extent of "the national interests" involved in the measures proposed by the act, and presented in behalf of the State, pursuant to the concurrent resolution of the Legislature, to the consideration of the General Government.

3d. A connected history of the proceedings and measures in Congress for carrying into effect the purposes of the act, with some of the causes of the temporary defeat of those measures, especially including the great exaggeration of