

improvements, at the session of 1838, on terms which left *“the company no alternative—they must sell, or subject themselves to risks which they are not warranted in running.”*

In every instance it is believed the parties with whom these bonds had been hypothecated, had power to sell at public auction or at private sale whichever mode best suited their views to secure the payment of the money advanced on them, and as justly observed by the committee above referred to, it was not to be expected that the parties with whom they were hypothecated, would *“forego the opportunity of enriching themselves at the expense of the company, by causing an immediate sale of the bonds,”* particularly when they presented *“to the foreign capitalists the alluring prospect of future profit, and the almost certain means of attaining it.”* This was the condition of the bonds of the company when its management passed into the hands of its present managers. They found the means provided for the company by the munificence of the State, so situated as to ensure but little else than loss and embarrassment. They were called upon to meet the heavy liabilities growing out of contracts entered into by their predecessors, and to enable them to do so successfully, they were compelled to exert the utmost prudence and financial skill. Never, it may safely be said, were men called upon to discharge so important a duty, under such harrassing and painful circumstances. They had to incur the responsibility of providing the ways and means to carry on a work in which the State had invested so much of its means, and promptly to meet the heavy liabilities which had been imposed upon the company by contracts which they had no agency in creating. Under such circumstances it might reasonably be expected that their proceedings would be viewed with a less strict scrutiny than those of persons differently situated. But, to the mind of the undersigned it seems that notwithstanding the difficulties which beset them at every step, they have discharged the onerous duty imposed upon them in a manner which cannot fail to give them sincere pleasure, being able to congratulate themselves upon the fact of having been able to carry on the great work under their charge, and at the same time to meet the engagements of the company with a punctuality which challenges high commendation.

Whatever may be thought of the sales of bonds made by the present President and Directors, as regards the amount received, it cannot be denied that the history of the canal de-