

the St. Lawrence over any other route which it is possible to have through the State of New York for the trade between the Western States, Western Canada, and the Eastern States, and render highly remunerative those Canals and Railways which are comparatively unproductive, and an annual loss to the Province.

5th. That with the navigation so improved and perfected, the St. Lawrence route would not only be the cheapest, quickest, and best for the great and ever-increasing trade of the Eastern States through Lake Champlain, but the port of Montreal from the vast water power at command for milling and other purposes of manufacture, and from its being accessible to vessels from sea drawing 20 feet at the lowest water, and from its also being 120 miles nearer the Upper Lakes than any other port on the continent, property of all kinds, whether from sea or from the West, could be held here for distribution in the Eastern and Western States, or for shipment to Europe, and would thus become the most convenient, and from the facilities which may be created, the cheapest interior depot on the continent.

6th. That while all interests in the Province would be greatly promoted by the adoption at once of such a policy, a revenue would be obtained from those great public works, which do not at present attract more than nine per cent. of the Western trade; which trade was the avowed object of their construction. The cost of transport would, by the employment of vessels of eight hundred tons, sailing direct from Chicago, Milwaukee or other Western ports without breaking bulk, be so reduced as to enhance the value for all time, of every agricultural product in the Western States requiring transport to the East, lessen the cost of all imports into the West from the East, and would make the St. Lawrence the great thoroughfare to and from the ocean.

7th. That in the opinion of this Board, the action of the Government of Canada in immediately deciding on the prosecution of these works would create as much interest with, and be deemed as great a boon by the people of the Eastern and Western States, as by ourselves, and the knowledge by them that such was the resolve of our Canadian Government, and that these works would be rapidly carried forward, would create, and give to the people of these States such an interest in the St. Lawrence route, as would, more than anything else, induce them to join us in urging on the Government