

CHANGES IN POSITION TAKEN BY GEORGIAN BAY ADVOCATES.

The plan advised by the Government Engineers was to take the canal over the higher (Trout Lake) level, and to pump and economize the water. Mr. Forward of Ottawa addressed a letter to the Berlin News Record, printed in that paper on January 11th., 1913, reading in part as follows:—

"Editor, Berlin Record.

Sir:—

In a recent number of the Record, you condemn the Georgian Bay Canal on apparently insufficient grounds. Will you, in the interests of fair play, give a place in your columns to the following?

Your objections, briefly summarized, are:—

1. There would be a scarcity of water.
 2. Its usefulness would be problematical.
 3. Further information should be obtained.
1. Plans now in the hands of the Government show that a summit level 58 miles in length is perfectly feasible for a deep waterway navigation. Careful tests have proved that the water supply available on the summit level is between 8,000 and 10,000 cubic feet per second."

The government report, 1908, gives (p. 141) the total distance from the outfall at the Chaudiere on the French River to the foot of Talon Lake (the Eastward end of the cut of the canal) as 68 miles; and it states further (p. 191-192) that by careful study of the conditions and computation of the water capable of storage in dams, it was found that the water supply available for lockage in a summit level formed of Trout, Turtle and Talon lakes, apart from Lake Nipissing, was 556 cubic feet per second, without allowance for leakage, or, if such allowance be made, 435 cubic feet per second; which flow would be increased, by the second series of dams above mentioned, only (p. 193) by 700 cubic feet per second. Therefore, when Mr. Forward states that plans now in the hands of the Government show that a summit level 58 miles in length is perfectly feasible for a deep waterway navigation with a water supply of 8,000 to 10,000 cubic feet per second, he can only mean that the canal is to include in the summit reach the waters of the Lake Nipissing basin, either by raising the present level of that lake or by cutting the canal to that level. With respect to the raising of Lake Nipissing, the report states, however, (p. 190) that the highest point to which Lake Nipissing could now be raised and maintained, without affecting too many interests, is at about elevation 648, or 8 feet above ordinary low water level, and from two to three feet above the highest flood water; and (p. 191) this elevation (water level of 648, less 22 feet for depth of canal=grade level of 626) is 25 feet under the grade level of 651 adopted by the government engineers for the Trout Lake summit. On the other hand, with respect to cutting the canal to the Lake Nipissing level (water level 648, grade 626 or 25 feet below the adopted grade) the report states (p. 191) that this would involve the excavation of enormous quantities of material, the largest proportion of which would be granite of the gneiss variety; and (page 141) that the successful accomplishment of such a cut would be "extremely problematical," and on the same page its practicability is utterly condemned on the following grounds:—

"These cut channels (i. e. channels cut to the Lake Nipissing level) vary in length from 1-8 to 3½ miles, and are either contained