

RED RIVER AND LAKE SUPERIOR CANAL.

I have said that we wished to show how the great lakes and the waters of the other two great continental basins could be brought into harmonious connections.

As is known to most of us the Red River that forms the boundary between this State and Dakota, runs north into Lake Winnipeg, and so on into Hudson's Bay. We also know that it is practically navigable from Breckenridge, and constantly so from Moorhead and Fargo.

By a topographical survey made some years since it is found in going west from Lake Superior by the St. Louis River and crossing to the Mississippi, following that stream some 150 miles, and by intermediate lakes and streams to the Red Lake River, and so down to the Red River at Grand Forks, Dak., a waterway requiring, with dams and slack water, less than fifty miles of artificial canal will be required. To make this a complete waterway with six feet of water, it is estimated will cost \$4,000,000—this might be reduced considerably, as the reservoir system already being carried out in the upper Mississippi by the General Government would come into exact play—but to avoid question, double it and say \$8,000,000; its length will be about the same as the Erie, which the State of New York built herself, when her population was less than that of our State now, with her people then poorer than ours now, and we have west of this State now a far larger population than New York then had west of her.

AT A GLANCE

one can see how this canal would not only connect the Mississippi with the lake system, but would also connect these two systems with over 4,000 miles of continuous navigation running north and west to the Rocky Mountains and within less than 400 miles of navigable waters to the Pacific—on this 4,000 miles more than forty steamers are running to-day—clear to its extreme western limit, save some 300 miles along Lake Winnipeg—it is all through a finer wheat country than this State generally—already have thousands of bushels of wheat been brought to this State from the Saskatchewan valley (which has 2,500 miles of this navigation) and sold at fabulous prices for seed. To illustrate the prolificness of the "Scotch Fife" wheat (our "No. 1 hard") in the Canadian section, I would say that it produces on each stem in this latitude two kernels of unequal size and one false one. In our Red River valley, 3, and 5 in the Peace River Valley (the extreme north-west of their prairie section). That a possible transportation avenue, that will double the present profits of wheat cultivation over such a large area will long remain unimproved, is not natural to believe possible, especially after the people interested become informed of its possibility. Constant agitation and extended information on this subject will sooner or later make it an accomplished fact. To say that