

sive, that it can be constructed at a moderate cost, compared with the great benefits it would secure to the country.

Local jealousies, and vague and extravagant ideas as to the expenditure required to complete this Canal, with an overweening confidence that the peaceful relations so long existing between our Government and that of Great Britain, were not likely to be disturbed, have all conspired to delay it, till at length its military and commercial necessity have become palpable and imminent.

The Government of the United States has rested supinely for near half a century under the disabilities for the defence of the Lake Frontier, imposed by the treaty of 1817 with England, by which the naval force of each Government, on the Lakes, was restricted to one vessel, of not over one hundred tons, carrying a single gun, for Lake Ontario, and not to exceed two vessels of like size and armament for all the Upper Lakes. But the British Government has been pursuing, steadily and effectively, a policy looking to the command of the Lakes, by a sufficient naval force, whenever she chooses to assert it.

Since the treaty of 1817, she has constructed the Rideau Canal, avowedly a military work, connecting Montreal with Kingston, on Lake Ontario, by an interior route, with locks one hundred and thirty-three feet long and thirty-three feet wide, well calculated to pass large gun-boats in ballast; and the St. Lawrence Canals, connecting the same points, with locks two hundred feet long and forty-five feet wide, to pass gun-boats drawing nine feet. She has also constructed the Welland Canal, connecting Lake Ontario with the Upper Lakes, with locks one hundred and forty-five feet long and twenty-six feet wide, to pass gun-boats drawing ten feet.

These Canals have cost little less than twenty millions of dollars, and still another Ship Canal is projected by the Canadian Government, between the city of Montreal and the Georgian Bay, on Lake Huron. By this route, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, with their vast tonnage