

more than all that could be needed, Vessels drawing far less than six feet are, now-a-days, constructed of a carrying capacity equal to that of large ocean-going vessels, that is, of course, in well sheltered waters, and perhaps a canal system similar to that which has been attended with such wonderful development on the tributaries of the Ohio, and on other rivers of the United States, might be found to be well adapted to the great rivers of the central section of this Dominion. At all events it is deserving of consideration.

The system referred to is in part as follows: Width of channel at surface, 130 feet; depth, 6 feet; locks about 55 feet wide, and of length enough to admit of two steamers being passed at a lockage. In the locks there is stone masonry sufficient to hold the gates securely in place, the space or basin intermediate between the gates being walled in with carefully constructed embankment which answers the purpose as well as masonry. The vessels in use are stern wheel steamers of cheap construction, some of them over 300 feet in length, with as much as 50 feet beam. Their freight carrying power is enormous, and that, too, on a draught of only six feet or less.

To reach some of the coal mines in the mountain passes on the tributaries of the Ohio, great differences of level had to be overcome. Some of the locks built in the early years of the century were of timber, and they lasted with but little repair through many years of constant use.

Thunder Bay, into which flows the Kaministaquia, is practically, and must continue to be, the ocean port of the North-West Territories of the Dominion. Let the water-ways from thence westward be opened up for navigation, as the circumstances of the country will permit of their being so. It is along navigable water courses, all the world over, that population has first taken root. Fertile lands and fuel, within easy reach, ensure its permanence, and these conditions obtain in a marked degree along the great line of water-way which I have endeavoured to sketch out.

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Niagara Falls, Ont.  
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