

## MEMORANDUM FOR CONTRACTORS.

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The subject of connecting Lake Champlain with the St. Lawrence River, near Montreal, at the Village of Caughnawaga, has for some time past, and is now, exciting not only the attention of the people of Canada, but the people of the Western United States, the Eastern States, and especially of the Cities of Boston and New York.

The Trade and Traffic of the Western States, have grown to be so great that other Channels, than what now exist, through the State of New York, must be found to the Atlantic Coast, and it is important to enquire whether or not, there is a way of providing a great and permanent relief at a comparatively trifling cost.

It is proposed in this enquiry to make Tide Water at Troy the easterly, and Buffalo, the westerly points for examination and comparison.

The greatest amount of tonnage ever delivered at Tide Water in one Season, was in 1862, when according to the Auditor's Report, there was delivered 2,917,094 tons; while, in the same year, the the largest direct shipment from Buffalo to Tide Water which ever occurred was 1,980,982 tons.

1st. It is acknowledged from official sources, that it now costs \$4.60 to carry a ton of freight from Buffalo to Tide Water.

2nd. It takes ten days to carry it.

3rd. No more than 1,981,982 tons, can be shipped at Buffalo for Tide Water *via* the Erie Canal. Since 1862, the tonnage shipped at Buffalo, has been largely reduced per annum. In that year the Canal was crowded, freight moved slowly, and large amounts were moved by Railway from the West *via* the "Pennsylvania Central," the "Baltimore and Ohio," and down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

In 1867, the New York Central Railroad, and the Erie Railroad carried through from Lake Erie to Tide Water, about 1,573,613 tons, an amount nearly equal to the Erie Canal capacity from Buffalo. Let it be granted that there is 6,000 tons now due to the easterly end of Lake Erie, and to the Erie Canal, then it is evident that this is about *three times* the tonnage that can be carried by the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Tide Water.