

Gentlemen, it was my father, the late William Stewart, while representing the future capital of United British America in the Canadian Assembly, who was the first to move in favour of the construction of an Ottawa ship canal. I hold in my hand the original resolutions drafted by him on the occasion referred to. For many years he had given the subject attentive and anxious consideration, throwing into it the full force of his energetic and enthusiastic nature. He was a man, as some of you may remember, of great force of character, with large, far-seeing, statesmanlike views—and the project in question was only one among many other important schemes and undertakings of a public character, which owed their origin, as I shall briefly have occasion to show, to his ready and prolific brain. You will, therefore, comprehend something of the feeling which I experience to-night, standing before you as I do in his place, to champion the rights and interests of the Ottawa Valley, in the matter indicated. I trust you will treat me with every indulgence, for the subject is not a small one, while my shortcomings as a public speaker are, as you know, many and various. As the resolutions in question are brief and to the purpose, and, moreover, from their nature and the circumstances connected with them, bear an historic interest, I shall venture to read them to you :—

*Resolutions to be proposed by Mr. Stewart (of Bytown) in a Committee of the whole House, on the 26th day of July, 1847 :*

1. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this House that the region of the country bordering on Lakes Huron and Superior, in the British territory, abound in rich and most valuable minerals, and that much of the land lying between the Ottawa river and Lake Huron, as well as in many parts in the vicinity of Lake Superior, is fit for cultivation and for supporting a large population.

2. *Resolved*,—That whereas it is contemplated to make a canal from Lake Superior, across the Sault St. Mary's; and whereas such canal, followed up by a farther *safe, sheltered and short* communication to the cities of Montreal and Quebec, would tend much to the profit and security of all parties now, or hereafter to be, engaged in mining operations in the regions above mentioned, and would develop and promote the general interests of the province at large.

3. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this House that such water communication can be attained by following the channel north of the Manitoulin Islands, to the mouth of the French River in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron—hence by damming and locking, ascend the French River