

THE PROPOSED OTTAWA CANAL.

The proposed improvement of the Ottawa and French Rivers forming a line of navigation between Montreal and Lake Huron. From Reports of the two Surveys made between the years 1856 and 1860.

The Report of Mr. Walter Shanly is dated 22nd March, 1858.

That of Mr. T. C. Clarke for the same is dated 2nd January, 1860.

Both these engineers had the advantage of consulting the geographical results of the Geological Survey conducted under Sir William Logan, between the years 1852 and 1855, and they agree very nearly as to the proper line for improvement, as well as to levels and distances, and generally as to the method of improvement by locks and dams. Their estimates, however, are made on entirely different bases, and for different scales of navigation.

The Ottawa is one of the main tributaries of the St. Lawrence. It drains an area of 80,000 square miles, and by Mr. Clarke's measurements at Carillon, discharges five millions cubic feet of water per minute at its ordinary stages. This is about one-sixth of the volume discharged by the St. Lawrence at the Cascades.

Its course from Montreal to the mouth of the Matawan is nearly due west. Here it turns away to the north, and the line of the proposed navigation continues on in the course of the Matawan, running in the same westerly direction to the line dividing the water sheds of the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, on the border of Lake Nipissing. Crossing this summit, it then follows Lake Nipissing, and descends the French River to its mouth on Lake Huron, a distance of 431 miles from Montreal. The low water surface of the Ottawa River at Ottawa City, 116 miles from Montreal, is 120 feet above tide water. At the mouth of the Matawan, 308 miles from Montreal, it is 489 feet above the sea, Lake Nipissing is 640 feet, and Lake Huron 574 feet above the same level.

That portion of the Ottawa River between Lachine and Ottawa City is called the Lower Ottawa, while the part westward of that city is called the Upper Ottawa.