

the history of these original French canals until I obtained the same from our able Canadian archivist, D  uglas Brymner, who referred me to his report on the same in "Canadian Archives," 1886, fol. xx., and following, to which I refer for details, and here briefly summarize to complete my statement.

According to this report the Department of Public Works had been misled by tradition in assuming that these original canals had been built by the "French" as the documentary evidence since obtained was not then in its possessions. It is as follows :

In Bougainville's *M  moire sur l'  tat de la Nouvelle France*, 1757, p. 79, the passage of Montcalm upwards from Montreal and the frightful rapids are referred to, but no mention is made of a canal *except that one from Montreal to Lachine had been spoken of but none had been built.*

Knox, in his "Historical Journal," vol. 2, p. 458, 1760, describes the passage upwards from Montreal and the difficulties of navigation, but gives no hint of the existence of a canal. The point is settled by the report of Col. Gotter Mann, of the Royal Engineers, on the state of the canals in 1780, where he says they were built under the orders of the then Governor Haldimand by Captain Twiss in 1779 and 1780, and that they should be enlarged, and adds, that these canals had been built primarily for transporting military stores and munitions, and secondly with the view of assisting merchants. Captain Twiss' letters fix the dates of the construction and completion of these canals in 1780-1781, and, as seen by subsequent records, they were enlarged in 1804 and 1817 and abandoned in 1845.

Mr. Brymner also gives at page 28 of the same volume an account of the canal at the Sault Ste. Marie 3,000 feet in length, with a water lift of nine feet, proposed to be built by the "North-West Company" in 1792, and subsequently carried out.

Thus all the Canadian canals, except that laid down in