

From the West and Northwest to the Sea.

By Wm. Pierson Judson, Mem. Am. Soc. C. E.



The West and Northwest must have the best possible waterway to the sea. The best waterway is that by which the largest practicable lake steamers can go nearest to the sea, by deep-water navigation, without breaking bulk.

Such a route can be made either through the United States or through Canada, and the great profits of the carrying trade, which is vastly increasing every year, and which exceed the profits of production, will go to that nation which provides the best way.

Each government has expended large sums to improve their natural waterways; the present magnitude of the commerce calling for these improvements being indicated by the 20,000,000 of tons passing the St. Clair Flats Canal yearly.

The United States has met the demand by the construction of the Sault Saint Mary Canal at the outlet of Lake Superior, having the finest and largest lock in the world, with a still larger one* now in progress; also, by the excavation of the St. Clair Flats Canal at the outlet of Lake Huron, and by the deepening of the Detroit River, at the entrance to Lake Erie.

The latter being completed and the others in progress to pass 20 feet draught.

The logical sequence of this liberal policy, each step of which has been followed by a great growth both in size and

* Eight hundred feet long between gates, 100 feet wide in gates as well as in chamber, and 21 feet deep on miter sills. Report Col. O. M. Poe, Corps of Engineers, An. Rep. Chf. Engineers, U. S. A., 1889, p. 2223.