

production, or the opening of new channels for its accommodation.

So great is the necessity felt at the West for more and larger outlets to the Atlantic for their rapidly increasing agricultural products, that the Illinois and Wisconsin Legislatures, last winter, appointed a deputation of her most intelligent and influential citizens to visit the Canadian authorities, and urge upon them the enlargement of the Welland Canal, and the early construction of the proposed canal between the Georgian Bay and Montreal. This project contemplates a slack-water navigation for the largest vessels navigating the Lakes through the Ottawa and French Rivers, and will bring the Straits of Mackinaw, and consequently the city of Chicago, nearer to Montreal than they now are, by the water route, to the city of Buffalo. The annexed Map, No. 2, exhibits the line of this proposed work, according to the survey of Walter Shanley, Esq., made by order of the Canadian Board of Public Works. It commences at the mouth of the French River on the Georgian Bay, 200 miles east of Mackinaw, and thence up that river, and through Lake Nipissing and its tributary, the River De Voce, and thence by a cut of less than one mile to the waters of the Ottawa, and down that river to Montreal; a distance in all from the mouth of the French river of 430 miles, and from Chicago to Montreal of 980 miles.

The distance from Chicago to Buffalo, by the Lakes, is variously estimated at from 950 to 1050 miles. We assume the distance to be 1000 miles, which cannot be far from the truth. This would bring the city of Chicago, by the Ottawa route, 20 miles nearer to Montreal than she is by the Lakes to Buffalo; and 515 miles nearer to Montreal than she is, by the Lakes, the Erie Canal and the Hudson River, to the city of New York.

Of the 430 miles between the mouth of French River and Montreal, only 58 miles will be canal, divided into sections varying from one to eight miles in length—the remaining 372 miles being inland Lake, and slack-water River navi-