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ARE THE GREAT LAKES RETAINING THEIR ANCIENT
LEVEL ?

By Staff Commander J. G. BOULTON, R.N.

(Read before the Association of Dominion Land Surveyors at Ottawa, 16th February, 1892, and now published for the first time.)

This question is not easy to answer definitely, from past experience, because, as far as I am aware, there are no continuous records of the movements of lake waters farther back than thirty years. During this period careful records have been kept, and the question would have been better put in this form: Are the great lakes likely to maintain the mean level of the last thirty years? Or it might be put thus: Have we any reason to fear that the lakes are being slowly but surely drained? I was led to make a few remarks on this subject because of the unprecedentedly low stage of water at the present time on all the lakes excepting Lake Superior. I have no theory to propound as to the future movement of the lake waters. My object has been simply to collect and give the Association what information I can upon the present and past condition of the inland seas, and invite opinions on the likelihood of their future movements.