

waters of the lakes, or sensible diminution of their contents. But, when a canal is ditched through a country, if the locks have occasion to be often opened and shut, a current is raised in the canal, and the waters are not unfrequently drained out of it, or, at least, are reduced beneath the proper navigable depth. Does it not, then, appear in the clearest manner possible, that the Rideau Canal can never be in want of water, unless a convulsion take place amongst the elements of nature? And as for evaporation, the dams will lessen more than increase it, as they deepen the rivers over beds of warm limestone-rock, and thus destroy the present influence of the hot summer sun of Canada; exhalations are trivial from the surface of lakes, compared with those from shallow rivers.

Thus is this Canal formed by dam and lock, and not by locks and cuts, as in England. The land drowned by the raising of the dams is not worth mentioning, consisting chiefly of swampy wastes, the haunts of otters and beavers.

Were Canada a country where floods and freshets are obnoxious to works placed in the beds of rivers, it would then be proper to shun the rivers with the works; but this is not the case. Floods there certainly are, but as these come periodically, they can be calculated upon with the greatest certainty; guard-gates and sluices can be fixed for their re-

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