

a damage could have been done by erecting a dam at that place. He endeavors, however, to create the impression that damage would result to the lands on the American side of the river, and thereby to induce the Minister to imagine that a dam should not be constructed at the head of Sheik's Island. What is the fact? After the dam was erected, all the water would go during the period of a flood, as it goes now between the islands, Barnhart's Island and the American shore, and the banks on the American shore are from 60 to 80 feet high, so that it is impossible that there could be any flooding of the American lands, for the water has never been known to rise more than 32 or 33 feet; therefore, no damage could arise, and there could be no complication with a foreign country. I think I have now dealt with every passage in Mr. Page's report, and I have shown very fully, by the reports of the engineers employed in the construction of the canal, and by all the evidence I have been able to obtain as to the manner in which the work was performed, to the House and to the public that this work was improperly located in the beginning, that the foundation upon which the banks were laid was bad, that the method of construction was bad, and that that might have been expected from the selection of the engineers under whose direction the work was done. To sustain my contention as to the engineers, let me read a passage from the *Engineering News*, a high authority in the United States, as to the result to banks when they are made under such circumstances, and, bear in mind, that the construction of the banks of the Cornwall Canal was under the direction of the consulting engineer, Mr. Wright, who was then also chief engineer of the Erie Canal. What was the result to the Erie Canal? The *Engineering News* says:

"The Erie Canal, 360 miles long, in a great many places forms a series of earthen dams, ranging from 10 feet to 50 feet in height, with water from 7 feet to 30 feet deep behind them. These banks were generally made of water-tight earth, with vertical puddle walls in the middle. Many of these banks have failed from improper construction. In a dozen or more places——"

And this shows that the same causes that resulted in the destruction of our banks here, have resulted in the destruction of the banks of the Erie Canal—

"In a dozen or more places the wheeling planks used in construction had been covered up, and thus provided for the escape of the first flim of water which finally resulted in a breach. In another case an old tow-rope left in the bank resulted in a breach. A third unlooked-for source of trouble resulted from the dumping of the wheeling planks, running across the bank, on material containing small stones."