

"the needs of the City of New York. * * * There never has been an hour since the canal "was undertaken when the people of the State of New York were not in favor of bringing "up the canal to the largest limits of possibility with the water and the grades which can "be applied on its present route or an improved route. * * * We understand that the "canal is the key to the commerce of this country. We hold the key and we "shall hold it "to the end of time. * * * Nothing that may be done in the way of the construction "of new routes to the Gulf or to the Atlantic, by the Government of the United States or "by other States or by private enterprises, can, by any possibility interfere with the ability "of the State of New York to take care of itself by the enlargement of the canal. * * * "That is our privilege ; that is our right ; that is our duty. When you turn this right and "privilege and duty over to Congress in what shape will it be found ? The appropriation "for the maintenance of the canal must be made in the River and Harbor Bill. If by any "possibility the bill should fail for a single year there would be no money to maintain the "canal as a free highway. * * Where is your remedy ? What are you going to do about "it ? And more than that, if the proposition is made for Congress to enlarge the canal or "for its annual maintenance, you ask the gentlemen who, by your own confession ARE "PROFITING BY THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE CANAL, its insufficiency to do the "work—you ask them to vote the money of the United States to build up the Port of New "York and to help the merchants and shipping of New York ; and how much sympathy "are you going to get from these rival cities on the Gulf and on the Atlantic shore ?"

On motion the report was unanimously laid on the table, and instead thereof the following preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted, viz:—

" *Whereas* an estimate has been made by the State Engineer and Surveyor, that in "order to complete the improvements of the State canals the sum of \$7,000,000 is required ; "and *whereas* it has been recommended by the governor of the State in his annual message, that any further sum to be expended should first receive the peoples' sanction. In "accordance with such recommendation a bill has been introduced into both Senate and "Assembly with this purpose in view, which if not immediately passed will cause an indefinite postponment of an improvement in the great waterways of the State essential to "the prosperity of New York ; therefore be it *resolved* that the Chamber of Commerce of "the State of New York urges upon the Governor and the Legislature the immediate passage of the bill known as the Cantor-Hill Bill, which provides for the submission, during the "autumn of 1898, of the question whether the State shall or shall not be bonded for the sum "of \$7,000,000 in order to complete the improvements of the State canals."