

present experience in these works that if the Canal were not in existence and a choice of communication were now to be made, the Railway would be selected. The lateral Canals of the State of New York it must be remembered, do not pay any dividends; the réceipts and disbursements being about equal notwithstanding the great advantages which they derive from their connection with the Erie Canal. The extraordinary extent of sheltered and inland navigation in America render the Canal system more applicable to this country than to many others, but it cannot be denied that the mania which followed the unparalleled success of the Erie Canal induced an extension of the system into districts, particularly in the more northern climates, where the Railway would have been more applicable.

It is the assertion of the best authorities and the result of the best experience, that freight and travel upon every highway are quadrupled in a remarkably short space of time by the construction of a Railway.

*Canada loses every year, by the want of Railroads and a winter market, enough to construct fifty miles of Railway.* If we look at the price of flour for the last six years, we will see that it has been highest in the winter months (from October to May); and we have not forgotten when in 1847, we with nearly half a million of barrels of flour for exportation in Montreal alone, were regaled with accounts of winter sales at double the usual rates, in Boston, New York, and other Atlantic ports, from which *for the want of Railways alone* we were shut out,—not even having the privilege of paying the American duty.

As soon as the Western farmer secures his crop his whole time is required to get in the new one before the frost,—for he sows fall wheat. Necessity alone makes him thresh out and take a portion of his grain to market. The winter is his idle season—then is his most convenient time for threshing and bringing his produce to sale. The Eastern farmer sows spring wheat, but as the snow forms his best and cheapest road,—the winter is also his proper time for coming to market. The same is the case with the farmer in the back Townships who has no summer road—he must wait for the snow and frost to bring out his grain to the best advantage. The chief part of their pro-