

*Reason Eight*

Because in no other way can the Government of Canada, at so small a cost, do so much to promote both general and local interests as by the immediate completion of this water-way.

---

In 1887 the Government of Canada appointed Messrs. Judge Weller, Peterboro', John Kennedy, C. E., Montreal, and Frank Turner, C. E., Toronto, commissioners to "consider the question of further extending the line of water communication between Lake Huron and Lake Ontario, and to determine whether any other local works are necessary and whether it is advisable that an extension of the main work should be undertaken, and if so, to what extent," and under date of December 17th, 1890, these Commissioners, after personally going over the route, taking evidence at various points including Kingston, Montreal, Albany and Buffalo, reported :—

"In regard to the practicability of the proposed route, in reference to its water supply, the Commissioners are of opinion that this has been established beyond question, both by the report of the Engineer and by the evidence received.

"In considering the bearing of the canal upon the development of the trade and natural resources of the country through which it will pass, it should be noted that the conditions are peculiar, inasmuch as it would act as a connecting link in a chain of lakes and streams which for the most part, lie transversely to the line of the canal, and that it would therefore afford access to an extent of country and coast line much greater than usual in a canal of its length.

"The commissioners, upon the evidence and information which they have been able to obtain, and which accompany this report, are of opinion that an extension of the main work should be undertaken by the completion, as soon as convenient and practicable, of the work necessary to give continuous navigation from Balsam lake to the Bay of Quinte. This would embrace the sections between Lakefield and Peterborough and between Healey's Falls and Trenton. In the opinion of the Commissioners a waterway would thereby be made which would not only greatly increase the value of the works already constructed, but would assist and develop the industries along its route, and open up the resources of the country through which it would pass, to such an extent as to amply compensate for the expenditure necessary to be incurred, although the work itself would not be expected to produce direct revenue.