

country so thinly inhabited, where there are so many unsold and unsurveyed public lands—and one which is so cut up with large rivers, lakes, mountains, and swamps, it is impossible either for lumbering or municipal enterprise to construct the necessary roads or bridges. The snow and ice give to the lumberman the only roads and bridges to his distant limits; but these leave him just at the period when he is in the greatest need of them. The teams hired to haul his timber come from Glogarry and the Lower Ottawa—and as the distance is great, if the snow disappears it takes them weeks to return home; and if the ice breaks up they must swim their horses across the stream at the risk of losing them. On the first appearance of a break up in March there is a regular stampede amongst the teamsters—off they go, perhaps leaving a great portion of the timber in the bush, to be burned by fire before the next year's drive.

The lumberman cannot bridge these streams—all their capital and enterprise being required for improving the character of the rivers for the passage of their timber. Vast sums have been expended by individuals and firms, in blasting rocks, and building dams, booms, slides, and piers. From a parliamentary return, it appears that no less than £150,000 have been expended by lumbermen, almost all within the last ten years, in these improvements.

On the other hand, the Government derived a revenue from the Ottawa timber dues of £38,000 in 1852, and they have expended about £50,000 in slides and other improvements for the timber, which are almost the only paying public works in Canada—the gross revenue in 1852, being £9,682. Thus the revenue of 1852 has been nearly equal to the whole expenditure upon the Ottawa, on account of the timber. It is much to be regretted, that such good claims as the Ottawa possess for a share of the Provincial expenditure, should have been pressed with so little judgment, and granted by Parliament with such an incorrect appreciation of what it really needs. Canals are cer-