

to contribute any thing towards the expense, and it becoming very onerous to a few, after spending several thousand dollars, they did, as the government has done in all its works on these Lakes, abandon their undertaking, incurring the loss of the money expended, without any benefit, because unable to complete it. A few thousand dollars more would have made this channel very available, and saved many thousands of dollars annually paid for light-erage to cross it. The money appropriated in the River and Harbor Bill, (\$40,000) at the last session of Congress, would have been much more than saved to the Western people, during 1846, in the cheapening of the freight on their property, which must pass here, be the expense what it may.

"The water in these Lakes is the highest in July and August, having received the benefit of the spring rains and melting of the snows in the boundless regions of the North-West. During these months the freighting and pressure of business is the lightest, and vessels experience less difficulty on these flats and the want of harbor improvements. The spring and fall months are the times when the business is rushing—when more vessels, more property, and more lives, are exposed to the mercy of the elements.

"Capt. Miles, who had charge of the Steam Dredge on these flats, reports that in July last, the following vessels passed them :

Steamboats,	71
Propellers,	37
Brigs,	59
Schooners,	128
Coasters,	81
Total,	376

of which 31 grounded and lightered in crossing. From the 18th to the 30th June, he says he did not keep a register,