

of the Government's action in granting Lord Selkirk's people land in Sault Sainte Marie he dared not take advantage but after a futile struggle left the field for a time to his rivals.

It was during this period that the lock, in some respects, of a military character, was built beside the Rapids.

The lock was 38 feet long and 8 feet 9 inches wide with the lower gate letting down by a windlass and the upper gates working with a sluice. The sides were held in place by vertical timbers tied together by horizontal pieces at the top and high enough for the batteaux to pass beneath them.

A leading trough of timber, framed and planked 300 feet long 8 feet 9 inches wide and six feet high supported and levelled on beams of cedar through the swamp, was constructed to conduct the water from the canal to the lock. The canal itself was 2580 feet long and beside the whole length of lock trough and canal, a roadway was cut 45 feet wide and there was laid a log towpath the full way, 12 feet wide, for oxen to track the boats. Whatever year after 1783 it was begun it was completed in 1798.

No record exists to show that the lock was ever used and it may have proved unsuccessful for its original purpose because of