

inventive powers; and had the river not existed, we should not, at this day, have possessed Steam-Boats.

Looking then at the western lakes, and at the fertile territory of which they are the centre; and at the enterprize of our citizens; we may safely predict that the lakes are to become the scenes of a mightier inland commerce than the world ever before witnessed.

In view of the efforts which were in progress at Oswego, a meeting was held last winter of the citizens of Utica. From that meeting various resolutions emanated, and also a memorial to the Legislature, praying for the survey of a Ship Canal from Lake Ontario to the Hudson. In the present position of the commerce which we desire to share, nothing short of a Ship Canal to the Hudson can enable us to compete successfully with Canada. When we can furnish to lake vessels an outlet from the lakes to New York, we may hope to direct the commerce to that port; but while a trans-shipment must be made from lake vessels into some other, before the freight can reach New York, we may steal from the lakes a little of its trade; we may catch the crumbs that fall from the table, but we can never partake of the solid dishes that compose the feast. Even for these crumbs we must scramble with Pennsylvania, with Maryland, and with States still farther south, and *they* even, bid fair to surpass us in this comparatively small competition.

Providence has, however, placed within our grasp the means of producing an outlet which shall enable us, not only to leave far behind all the efforts of our sister States, but which shall enable us to furnish an outlet superior, even to that by the St. Lawrence; superior by being more accessible during a portion of the year, and by leading to, generally, a better market.

Upon motion, portions of the Report of Edwin F. Johnson, Esquire, the Engineer who had explored the route, were read, and listened to, with great interest.

The Committee appointed at a previous meeting to prepare a memorial to the Legislature, and Resolutions expressive of the views of the city relative to the work, reported, by their Chairman, a memorial, and the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the unparalleled increase in the population and productions of the Western States and Territories, and the consequent necessity of greatly enlarging the facilities of communication between the western portions of our country, and particularly in view of the spirited and wisely directed efforts making in our sister States and the Canadian Provinces, to divert the trade of the western country from its accustomed route, through the Erie Canal, to the City of New