

The same rate of cost in this case would swell your work to the sum of £698,025.

Experience has shown that the cost of transportation in the States on a canal with 5 feet water is about 1 cent. per ton per mile, exclusive of the tolls; and that the cost of transportation on the rivers and lakes does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per ton per mile.

As your navigation may be said to be entirely river and lake navigation, but subjected to the passing of 7 locks and 2 planes and a circumscribed channel in a portion of the river, it may be safe to calculate that the cost of transportation will be a half-penny per ton per mile for distances over 30 miles, and one cent per ton per mile for distances less than 30 miles; thus making the entire cost of transporting a ton from the Basin of Minas to Halifax Harbor, only two shillings and sixpence for the freight, and whatever the tolls may be in addition thereto, probably not to exceed, in all, three shillings and ninepence per ton.

In other words, for all practical purposes to Halifax, the Basin of Minas will be brought as near to it as is the farming country at ten miles distant from the town; and consequently a very large proportion of the trade of that large inland sea would be secured to Halifax, a trade which must otherwise finally centre at St. John, New Brunswick.

I trust that it will not be considered improper, in closing this report, to refer to the large deposits of gypsum, limestone, brick, clay and sand on the banks of the Shubenacadie River, and the extensive quarries of granite and other good building stone on the lakes, and also to the forests that line the shores of the lakes and parts of the river and its tributaries, from which may be obtained almost an unlimited amount of timber, lumber and wood; and to the large water power on said tributaries, and along the Company's works, and also to the extensive and fertile agricultural regions on each side of the river, this side of the Bay of Minas, as evidence that a large trade will seek the advantages of the use of your water communication, almost as soon as it shall have been completed.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. TALCOTT, C. E.

HALIFAX, N. S., May 19, 1856.