

The Trent Valley Route

"and keep their produce for the more favorable rate sure to prevail when navigation is "opened."

The report concludes by recommending that it be : "Resolved, that this chamber "reiterates its expressed opinion of the very great value which the enlargement of the Erie "canal will have to this port, this State, and the entire Western States and prays that by "wise and judicious action the same may be speedily, economically and honestly under- "taken and carried out."

After being printed, the report from which the foregoing extracts are taken was un-animously adopted on March 31st, 1898.

On March 24th last the Committee on Internal Trade and Improvements submitted a report recommending that it be

"Resolved that the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York recommend and "urge the passage by the Legislature of the State of New York of the concurrent resolution "introduced by Senator Pavey PERMITTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO SELL, lease, or "otherwise dispose of the canals, or either of them, to the United States upon such terms as "may be mutually agreed upon, and UPON THE EXPRESS CONDITION that the United "States SHALL IMPROVE MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE SAME AS A FREE PUBLIC WATER- "WAY, and, in case of failure by the United States so to do, that "the said canals, or either "of them, together with all improvements made thereon shall revert to and again become "the property of the State of New York."

In submitting this report Mr. McIntyre said:—"Your committee went into this matter' "as you will see by their carefully written report, with a great deal of care and with much "thoroughness ; and I, personally, a member of that committee, have had a great deal to do "with this canal matter, having been in this business, as some of you personally know, for "some twenty-two years. In my opinion there is no question so important to the commerce "of New York as this canal question. I personally, would like to see the \$7,000,000, "appropriation passed this session, and the canal improved as was intended when we voted "for the appropriation of \$9,000,000. I have been at Albany on the matter every week for "the last month urging them to pass it, and doing everything that could be done to obtain "legislation that would make it possible to complete what we call the "400 ton barge canal. "SUCH A CANAL WOULD BE OF ENORMOUS BENEFIT TO US, AND WOULD DO ALMOST "WHAT WE WANT."

Mr. A. S. Hewitt opposed the report, and in doing so among other things said:—

"I have no controversy with the proposition of the gentlemen who urge that the canal "should be enlarged and made a waterway adequate to the wants of the Great West and