

shipping there has quadrupled, and the rates of freight are only about one-fourth what they formerly were.

It is believed, however, that with the present facilities for navigation, the Lake Winnipeg trade has reached its maximum. With the improvements proposed, there is undoubted authority for saying that the Lake Winnipeg trade would be increased ten fold, while a large local trade on the Red River would be developed.

In the item of fuel alone, the equivalent of 200,000 cords of wood is now used every year in the country tributary to the Red River.

Fire wood, the supply of which from the railway lines is rapidly becoming exhausted, costs delivered, about \$5.50 per cord. With a fair profit to dealers and shippers the same quality of wood could be delivered from Lake Winnipeg for \$3.50 per cord, or including cheap grades of poplar, say an average saving of \$1.50 per cord, or \$300,000 per annum.

It will be seen therefore that a small canal to'll on sandstone, limestone, lime, lumber and cordwood would be sufficient to pay the cost of construction of the proposed works.

Some of the benefits to be derived by the Dominion at large from the improvements of the Red River would be :

(1) An increase in the revenue from Government dues on wood, lumber and ties.

(2) The development of iron mines and manufactures.

(3) The creation of large and important shipping interests.

(4) The development of an export trade with the United States in iron ore, stone, wood, cheap grades of lumber and railway ties.

(5) The settlement of the lands surrounding the Lake.

The principal obstruction to navigation occurs at the St. Andrew's Rapids, between the Lake and City of Winnipeg.

Between the City of Winnipeg and the boundary line, in ordinary seasons, the river is navigable.

From the international boundary southward the river has been improved by the United States Government, and in ordinary seasons affords navigation to vessels of five feet draught for a distance of 260 miles.

It is estimated that the cost of improving the St. Andrew's Rapids would not exceed \$500,000, and it is thought that the increase in Government revenues from timber, ties, cord wood, minerals, etc., would be more than sufficient to pay the cost of the necessary improvements.

And as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.