

opening of the Canal would soon create a community of interests where none at present exist.

“Question 4.—The size of the vessels that might fairly be expected to trade through the proposed Canal, and whether sailing vessels or steam vessels will be on the same comparative footing as on the existing routes of the Gulf?”

Of the six questions submitted to the Commission, the above is second to none, as it will determine the size of the Canal. If found that one less than 15x100 feet will answer, millions of dollars will be saved to the country.

The American fishing vessels that frequent the Gulf, are from 80 to 100 tons burden, and when loaded have a draught generally of 10 feet.

A company was incorporated to build and sail propellers for the carrying of coal from the Spring Hill mines. Their draught loaded was to be eleven feet. The intention was to send them to the Gulf ports through the proposed Canal, as well as to the United States. In the Winter they were to be sent to the West Indies. A number of those Islands, like some of the Gulf ports, have bar harbors that will not admit of vessels of greater draught.

The International Steamers running from St. John to Boston, are of the following draught and tonnage :

New Brunswick, loaded,	.....8 feet 9 in.	935 tons,
City of Portland, “	.....9 feet 6 in.	1025 “
New York, “	.....9 feet 6 in.	1100 “

A class of vessels that might be expected to use the Canal are three masted schooners, vessels of large carriage and cheaply worked. For the carriage of lumber, coal, West India or Western produce, they are admirably adapted, as the following will show :

Moss Glen, 195 tons register, capacity under deck 2000 barrels, or 300 tons of coal.

Draught in ballast,	..... 6 feet.
“ with flour,	.....10 “
“ “ coal,	.....11 “

Frédéric E. Scammell, 234 tons register, capacity under deck 2300 barrels, or 391 tons of coal.

Draught in ballast,	..... 6 feet.
“ with flour,	.....10 “ 6 in.
“ with coal,	.....11 “ 6 “

Tonnage of large capacity is not always dependent on draught. A propeller called “Her Majesty,” shortly after the Confederation of the Provinces, ran between Toronto and Halifax; it carried 7000 barrels of flour, yet only had a draught, loaded, of 10 feet 6 inches.