

is a matter of great importance to the town of Cornwall, that during three and sometimes four weeks of the year, the entrance to the canal is frozen solid to the bottom, that not a drop of water enters, and that the consequences are two thousand poor people in the town of Cornwall are during all that time unemployed. But, Sir, what excuse does he offer for leaving the canal in this dangerous state? He says, his excuse is, that it is caused by frazil, and that nobody knows anything about frazil. Frazil has no more to do with it than I have. I took the chief engineer up there, and I pointed out to him that the ice comes down the river and fills up the channel between the pier and the main shore, and then so soon as the surface is covered the blocks of ice that follow go under the top ice and so on, and so on, until it is filled to the bottom. It is only at great risk of life to the canal laborers that they are ever able to make a passage through that ice so as to get a supply of water for the mills. That is all because the chief engineer is wedded to his idols, and he appears to have seen nothing, to have heard nothing, and to have learned nothing, during the thirty years he has been in charge of the work. Because of that, forsooth, the canal is to remain in dangerous condition and no change whatever is to be made. Having said this much as to the entrance at the head of the canal, let me say something as to the entrance at the foot. A few years ago, when the manufacturers and the forwarders of this country were calling for an increased water supply to the Cornwall Canal, the chief engineer recommended that the work of the improvement of the canal should be begun; but, in keeping with everything which he has done in connection with these canals, he proposed to give us a water supply, not by building new locks and a larger entrance at the head, but by building new locks and removing the entrance at the foot. Instead of giving us an increased water supply he showed us the way to let the water out, but he found out no means of letting the water in.

Mr. RYKERT. How did he do that?

Mr. BERGIN. By building the locks at the foot instead of at the head of the canal. Had they been built at the head they would have given an additional supply. Now, the entrance at the foot is a dangerous entrance as well as the entrance at the head of the canal. We have no range lights at the foot, there are no buoys or beacons put upon the north shore of the Cornwall Island, and no lights to show the mariners the new channel which it is necessary