It may probably be argued, and I am aware it has been asserted by Mr. Purdy "that the mill will not work up with a less head of water;"—in reply to which it will only be necessary to remark, that the mills, as now in operation, particularly the grist mill, is upon the rudest possible principle, constructed without any regard to economy of water, using as much and wasting more than would drive six ordinary [illegible] and I have no hesitation in saying that a mill, upon proper [illegible] principles, and with every regard to economy in construction, can be made to do as much work, if not more than the mill can possibly [illegible] the [illegible] of the head and quantity of water she at present has, viz: [illegible] 5 [illegible] and fall, and at the same time afford a more [illegible] than the present rude construction can make to the proprietor.—(In point of [illegible] construction I mean to be understood as referring particularly to the [illegible], the *description of water-wheel* used, and the manner of connecting the stones therewith, and not the arrangement of the other parts of the mill which are tolerable good.)

To gain even the head which Mr. Purdy now considers absolutely necessary to insure the effective operation of the mill, he has had recourse to rising the surface of the mill pond, even above the natural [illegible] of his own land, by the construction of the wing dams d. d. d. in height about 18 inches above the surface, and I understand, at low water has a [illegible]-board which attaches to the top of the dam.

I would, therefore, in reviewing the matter, beg leave to submit, for Your Excellency's consideration, my opinion in the following terms:—

That the *total* removal (if such was meant) of the dam at Purdy's Mill must ruin the navigation of the Scugog River and Lake, inasmuch as reducing it to its original state as described, merely passable for boats, and that at high water, lay the marshes in the lake entirely dry, which, by exposure to the sun's rays, must, as a matter of course emit ague and lake fever *miasma* to such a degree as would render the country most unhealthy: but that the total removal of the present, and substitution of another of less dimensions as to height, so as to afford 5 (say five) feet water in place of 12, as at present over the shallows in the river and outlet of the lake, would *materially* benefit the navigation, inasmuch as one dam and lock at point C, on the plan, would carry the navigation from Sturgeon Lake into Scugog by a lift of only 5—0—9, in place of 12—0—9—that the said lift of 5—0—9 would be perfectly sufficient, with a mill on *proper* principles, such as for instance has just been erected on the upper rapids of the Otanabee River, at the outlet of Clear Lake, of only 3 feet of head and fall to serve all and every purpose required—although I think [illegible] feet of clear head and fall may be obtained, in which case the purposes of the saw mill will be equally served.

On the subject of lowering the water above the present dam I would remark, that if the same is done at the proper season, [illegible] that little apprehension need be entertained for the [illegible] hard wood land, such as will be reclaimed in consequence thereof.