

Thus, upon the completion of the first enlargement of the Lachine Canal, in 1848, a boat nearly 140 feet long, 26 feet beam, and 9 feet draught could for the first time pass from Montreal to Chicago. The notable feature of the St. Lawrence section of the Canadian canals is that although there are 40 miles of canal and over 200 feet of lockage, steamers of 500 tons and over daily descend from Lake Ontario to Montreal, during the navigable season, without using lock or canal. Though the fall is, in some of the rapids, over 40 feet per mile, all are navigable downwards by boats drawing six to eight feet, according to river level.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

As the province of Canada, in 1841, commenced the improvement of the inland navigation by the enlargement of the Welland and Lachine, and the completion of the remaining St. Lawrence canals, with uniformity only as to depth of canal between tide water and the upper lakes, so, thirty years later (after confederation in 1867 with the maritime provinces, and the acquisition of the Northwest Territories from the Hudson Bay Company), the Dominion of Canada took up the question of inland navigation.

A canal commission was appointed in November, 1870, which reported in February, 1871, advising a uniform scale of navigation for the St. Lawrence and Welland canals, with locks 270 feet long by 45 feet wide in the chambers, and with 12 feet depth of water upon the mitre sills. Before, however, any locks were constructed, the Dominion Parliament, in 1875, without dealing with lock dimensions, ordered the enlarged canals to be deepened so as to pass vessels drawing 14 feet of water.

In arriving at lock dimensions and draft of water the Commission of 1871 seem to have been governed by the then prevailing size of the majority of the vessels on the upper lakes, as well as by the then depth of water in the harbours. But, while the commissioners recommended 12 feet, they gave the depth of 17 harbours, 12 of which had, or were capable of having, 14 feet and over, and they stated that this draught had then been