

In October, 1779 Sir John Johnson proceeded to Oswego with the design of acting against the Oneida Indians, who, with the Tuscaroras, had been engaged on the side of Sullivan in his invasion of the territory of the Six Nations. They had been particularly active in intercepting intelligence and preventing intercourse with the upper posts. Johnson had counted to a great extent upon the aid he would receive from the remaining tribes of the Six Nations, but they had been dispersed by Sullivan's operations, and the Indians of the upper lakes refused all assistance. Johnson found it impossible to carry out the expedition, and returned to Carleton-island.

The want of success in the attempt exercised a depressing influence, and in his letters to England* Haldimand dwelt upon the necessity of sending reinforcements with supplies, so that the preservation of the upper country could be maintained. Plainly, it was the policy of congress to reduce

canal is chronicled the same year. The Erie canal was authorized in 1817 and the work was commenced on the 4th of July. Its whole length of 363 miles was only completed in 1825.

The first locks were but little in excess of those of the enlarged early canals, being ninety feet long, fifteen feet wide and four feet deep. The dimensions of the Canadian lock was 145 feet by twenty-three feet in the chamber, the width at the gates being twelve feet. In 1835 the Erie canal was enlarged to locks 110 feet long by eighteen feet wide and seven feet on the sills; dimensions which, from the insuperable difficulty of obtaining a water supply in the Rome level, may be regarded as the maximum attainable.

The first of the Bridgewater canals was completed by Brindley in 1761; the size of the lock was seventy-four feet in length, seven feet wide, with five feet of depth.

These memoranda establish the priority of the introduction by Canada on this continent of the canal system as claimed in the text.

In connection with the subject of canal navigation, I am impelled to direct public attention to the heights above tide water of the Atlantic ocean of the several western lakes, Ontario to Superior, as officially recognized in the dominion. I refer the reader to the note at the end of this chapter, in which I have endeavoured to consider the true heights of these waters. At the same time, I venture to suggest the measures that in my humble judgment it is advisable the government should adopt, to assure their correct determination in our records.

* [Can. Arch., B. 54, p. 259, 1st November, 1779.]