

or exchange a part of their cargoes here, and this facility of trading inland in all directions on the best terms must exercise a powerful influence over our sea trade and tend greatly to increase the number of vessels arriving here. The trade between the Western Lakes, and New York and New England, together with the Ottawa lumber trade, must comprise the great bulk of the future commerce of this Canal. If Montreal desires to reap the greatest benefit from this work, she should place it where it would be most efficient, and to be most efficient it should be located where it will be most convenient to this Western and Ottawa trade—neither of which should be burthened with the additional lockage of the Lachine Canal doubled—when they have no business to do here. So far from “diverting trade” from Montreal, this Canal would simply restore to the St. Lawrence Canals, trade which has been diverted from them by the Ogdensburgh Railway. The trade of Upper Canada and the Western States now finds its way to New York through cheaper routes than by Montreal. If Caughnawaga can attract it from Ogdensburgh, and Longueuil cannot do so, surely it is better for Montreal to get it any where within reach than to see nothing of it whatever. Even if you were to reap no incidental advantages it could do you no harm, and inasmuch as it must give increased impulse to the Ottawa lumber trade it would enrich the country behind you,—enrich your customers and thereby enrich you.

Caughnawaga should be treated as one of the future suburbs of this City. From the St. Gabriel Lock, which will ere long, be a central point of departure, Caughnawaga can be reached in about the same time and cost as Longueuil. There would be no more lockage between the Sea and Lake Champlain via Caughnawaga, than by any other route, and in this case, the up trade of iron, salt, coal, fish, &c., must pass through Montreal, whereas in the other, it would stop at Longueuil, making that point quite as efficient a rival as Caughnawaga. So also with the down trade, I mean that intended for Lake Cham-