

did not conform in capacity in any respect to the terms of the Act under which this examination was directed to be made, and were of little use to me in the duties assigned."

Mr. Mills then made an estimate of his plan, as well as an estimate of the plan of Mr. Clowes. The plan of Mr. Clowes, I may mention, was to cut through Archibald's Point about a mile and a quarter further west than the present entrance to the canal, go through Hooples' Creek to a deep ravine and low ground which runs from the head of the Long Sault to Brownell's Bay, now called Sand Bridge, and at Brownell's Bay, or near the head of Sheik's Island, to construct a short dam, the river there being at summer level only about 150 feet from the present canal bank to the head of the island, and never at any time having more than two feet of water. That is called a branch of the river, but it is really not that. Oftentimes during the summer one can walk almost dryshod from the main shore to the head of Sheik's Island. He contemplated also placing a large dam at the foot of the island. This would have given us an inland canal with natural banks that could never break away; but Mr. Mills, in making his report, condemned that plan, as I shall show you presently, because he said it would cost thirty thousand pounds sterling more than the plan which he proposed, and which was to build along the bank of the river and not to have an inland canal. Further on, I will show you from the report that Mr. Mills was obliged to shift his banks over and over again; that he was obliged to shift his centre line fifty feet into the bank; and, finding that the bank was constantly slipping into the river as fast as constructed, so bad was the foundation, and in order to keep it from further danger, he was again obliged to shift his centre line twenty feet further. He then got into a bank of hard pan and boulders, which cost a large amount of money, and, although the bank is to-day within the natural bank, yet the foundation is the same bad, unsubstantial foundation tapped by quicksand and by running water that it was fifty years ago, and it is not in any better condition to-day to build a bank upon than it was then. The very fact of this bank breaking away last fall, as it was always predicted that it would break away, and as Mr. Mills himself, after two years of construction had been gone on with, admitted it would break away, shows that it is time we should direct the attention of the Government (whose attention was never directed to it before) and the attention of the Chief Engineer of Canals, to the actual state of the facts. Mr. Mills, in making his estimate, says this: