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## THE PUBLIC WORKS OF CANADA.

NOTES ON THE NEW CUT FOR  
THE GRENVILLE CANAL,  
AND THE DAM NOW BEING  
CONSTRUCTED ACROSS THE  
OTTAWA RIVER.



HERETO, little notice has been taken by the public papers, of the important and costly works which have, year after year, been constructed in the Dominion of Canada. Whatever notice has been taken of them has been of a mere editorial character, of a rather desultory nature, and not emanating from the pen of any official connected with the Department of Public Works. This is to be regretted, particularly as these works are often on a gigantic scale and very costly, and for the payment of which a large proportion of our revenue has to be applied. There are, at the present moment, very few of our own population, and a far less number of our neighbours in the United States, and fewer still in the mother country, who have the slightest conception of the magnitude and public importance of the works previously built and some now in the course of construction by the Board of Works in Canada. Whether this neglect has arisen from an oversight by former governments, or from a difficulty on the part of our public journalists to obtain the necessary detailed information to enlighten the public on these important matters, we cannot say; but as a conductor of an illustrated scientific journal, whose duty it is to give publicity to all works of a public nature, or public improvements of any kind carried on in the Dominion, we feel it incumbent upon us, even at a considerable increase of expense, hereafter to illustrate, and furnish details of the construction of all public works of importance being now or to be built in this country, so far as such information can be given without affecting the public interests.

We are happy to say that the Honorable Commissioner of Public Works at once courteously acceded to our

request—when called upon—to be afforded with the necessary information, and we feel that the Chief Engineer of the Board of Works will fully enter into the view we take in this matter of the importance of placing on record, in the columns of this Magazine, for future reference, diagrams and details of the construction of many of the Public Works over which he has for many years had the chief control.

It certainly has been a great oversight in the past, that the magnitude and importance of our great canals have not been more prominently noticed in public papers. *The Engineer—Engineering—Iron*, and other English scientific journals, not only give great publicity, and fully illustrate the important works of England, but give publicity, also, to all important works that are being constructed on the Continents of Europe and America generally—Canada excepted; and the columns of the *Scientific American* also frequently contain descriptions and illustrations of foreign works—and yet the important hydraulic works of Canada, to see which the Russian Government but recently sent over Engineers, with letters credential to the Government of Canada, to examine and report upon them—are so little thought of in our country, that the great mass of our population is totally ignorant of the magnitude of works which are being carried on within a few miles of their own doors.

It is not our intention in this introductory article to report officially upon any of the public works now in course of construction; but we hope to do so as soon after the close of the year as possible. We have only recently returned from Carillon, where works of great importance are being constructed, and yet how few know of the *gigantic dam* now being built across the river Ottawa, within one mile and a half of the village—or, of the new cut and enlarged locks for the Grenville canal at the same spot. This large dam, which, when completed, will be over 2000 feet in length, and the largest, probably, in North America, is intended to throw back the waters of this great river some miles, so as to avoid the delay which takes place in towing vessels up the present canal, and to allow vessels of larger tonnage to descend through the new locks. Some idea may be formed of the great hydraulic power to be stemmed, when we men-