

## INTRODUCTION.

---

This Pamphlet comprises a consensus of opinions on the commercial value of an Isthmian Transit between the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, for the conveyance (without transshipment) of bulky articles of commerce, which cannot with convenience and economy be carried any great distance by the ordinary railway, such as lumber, coal, gypsum (plaster), building stone, potatoes, deals, fish, etc., etc., etc.

The statistics of existing trade, given in these pages, shew the importance of a short cut by steamers and sailing craft between Prince Edward Island and St. John and all ports in the Gulf and Bay now separated by the Isthmus of Chignecto.

The Pamphlet also contains an Estimate of the Traffic, that will follow the construction of the Ship Railway, supported by independent testimony of the most convincing character. It describes its suitableness for the purpose of carrying this traffic in preference to a Canal, which was not designed for the transport of the modern steamers of the Gulf. It gives in evidence of its practicability, safety, and economy the opinions of eminent engineers and naval architects, who have specially examined its merits, and of its commercial advantages, the opinions of public men whose character is unimpeachable, and whose experience carries weight.

All that has been said in favor of the Baie Verte Canal years ago, notably in the verdict of the Canal Commission of 1871, applies with greater force at the present moment, because of the great increase of trade and productions since that year, which warrants the belief that the next decade will witness a still greater increase in their wealth if additional facilities of communication be provided.

H. G. C. KETCHUM,  
*M. Inst. C. E.*

Sackville, N. B., June 10, 1887.