

must have been much esteemed, for his family subsequently received a grant of 6,000 acres of land.

At this date the trade relations with the United States had considerably increased. The communication from Albany by the Mohawk as far as the present city of Rome, thence by the portage to the stream leading to lake Oneida and the Onondaga to Oswego, made lake Ontario accessible with but moderate effort. On the other hand, the ascent of the Saint Lawrence to lake Ontario, the only aid to navigation being the small canals, in the first instance constructed by Haldimand, was still attended by great impediments and difficulty.* Lake Ontario being reached at Oswego from the Hudson, the lake schooners without hindrance could carry freight in the ordinary way certainly to Prescott. Great advantage was found in an interchange of products, and by the end of the century the trade had assumed such dimensions that ports of entry were established at Cornwall, Johnstown (now Brockville), York and Niagara. Trade had also worked its way west of lake Erie; and Turkey point, Amherstburg and Sandwich were established on the same basis.

A letter of the celebrated sir Alexander Mackenzie, written in 1802, will be read with interest, as being the first allusion to the system of canals by which the navigation of the Saint Lawrence is assured. Attention had been drawn to the project of connecting Albany with lake Ontario by canal. The city of Hudson, some forty miles south of the city of Albany, on the river of that name, was the head of the navigation for square rigged vessels, whence schooners of eighty tons proceeded to Albany. The proposition was to construct locks so that the Mowawk could be ascended, and a canal made by which lake Ontario could be reached. The suggested improvement ran on the line of the present Erie and Oswego canals. Sir Alexander Mackenzie advocated the improvement of the Saint Lawrence, giving the opinion that the construction of only fourteen miles of canal was called for, and dwelling on the great advantages derivable

* [Ante., p. 21 et ult.]