

by the Creator with a full knowledge of what would be required of them—will be widened and deepened to free ship-courses. The St. Clair flats and its connections will be 30 feet in depth and 2,000 feet in width. There will be not less than four locks around Niagara Falls and not less than four channels 30 feet in depth from Lake Ontario to tidewater.

The great lakes will be under control; all harbors will have been deepened by raising the general level of the lake surfaces and ships will ply as freely—lockages excepted—between seaboard and lakeboard cities as between Liverpool and New York.

Man will finish the incomplete continent and perfect it as a habitation for the human family and the seat of culminating civilization. For the full play of the genius of projection no other situation offers equal opportunities. The Creator stretched these great lakes, one rising above the other, 2,000 miles into the heart of the continent to diversify the products of the soil, hold in check the cold waves of the north, modify the hot blasts of the south and afford the cheapest known means of interchanging the productions of unlike soils and unlike natural resources.

By this peculiar disposal of our prodigious chain of waters, overshadowing all the lacustrine systems of the earth, engineering skill can easily and cheaply add a quarter to the length of Lake Ontario; several feet to the depth of all the harbors of Lake Erie; permanency to a higher level of Lakes Michigan and Huron; equalized volume to the enormous floods of Superior; broad and ample channels to the sea and prosperity to two nations.

These extravagant gifts of nature were intended to help work out the perfection of civilization in America. The Mediterranean can not be impounded or manipulated for the benefit of surrounding nations; the waters of the Suez canal can not be raised; the seas of Europe can not be drawn upon to transform the character of a continent, or create a new commerce, or lay the benediction of prosperity upon an empire of production. These transformations are all to take place in America.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A DEEP CHANNEL—The earliest move, therefore, should have been toward an ample connection between the seaboard and the great lakes. Had that been made a century ago, or fifty years ago, New York would be a far greater community than she now is; Chicago would have 5,000,000 and Superior and Duluth 2,000,000 of inhabitants; Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit and sister lake cities would be many times their present size; the Dominion of Canada would have 10,000,000 instead of less than 5,000,000 of inhabitants; Manitoba would be teeming with wealth and population, and the war of the rebellion would have been closed in eighteen months instead of four years—indeed, it might have been closed before it was begun.

Not a moment should be lost in correcting the errors and supplying the deficiencies of the past.

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