

the great lakes and rivers, therefore, is suggested by the President to the consideration of Congress as a measure likely to promote peaceful relations between the two nations. As such, and with the sincere desire that nothing may ever disturb the peaceful relations so happily heretofore existing, and so important to the growth and development of both countries, we urge defensive measures on the consideration of Congress. The rapid advance in the prosperity of the British provinces, and more especially of the United States, since the close of the war of 1812, furnishes a striking illustration of the blessings of peace. The population of the United States in 1815 was 8,638,131; in 1860 it was 31,148,571. The States of Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas, have been admitted into the Union since that period, and in the following order :

Indiana in .....	1816
Illinois in .....	1818
Missouri in .....	1821
Michigan in .....	1837
Wisconsin in .....	1848
Iowa in .....	1846
Minnesota in .....	1857
Kansas in .....	1860

The northwestern States to-day have a population of 9,073,055.

The northwest has sprung into existence, and developed the productions of an empire since the close of the war of 1812.

It may not be improper to take a brief survey of the growth and present condition of the northwest, and its commerce, to show the value and importance of the interests we are now about to ask the government to defend. Before doing so, however, a brief description of the lakes may not be uninteresting.

Nearly midland of the North American continent there extends a vast chain of lakes and rivers, three thousand miles in extent, connected on the east, by the St. Lawrence, with the Atlantic, and Nature has provided that these vast highways of commerce may be connected by a ship canal across a narrow portage, with the Mississippi river and its tributaries on the southwest.

Lake Superior is a vast inland sea of 32,000 square miles, and 2,000 miles of coast, 420 miles long by 160 broad.

Lake Michigan, with 22,000 square miles of surface, 1,200 miles of coast, 320 miles long by 82 wide.

Lake Huron, with 24,000 square miles of surface, 2,000 miles of coast, 260 miles long by 110 broad.

Here we have three great seas of near 80,000 square miles of surface, and 5,000 miles of coast.

These bodies of water find an outlet through the river and Lake St. Clair and the magnificent straits of Detroit into Lake Erie, 90 miles from Lake Huron. Lake Erie, 250 miles long and 60 broad, discharges its waters down the Falls of Niagara into Lake Ontario, 180 miles long and 60 broad, and thence the waters of these great lakes find their way to the ocean through the St. Lawrence.