

APPENDIX No. 14.

HARBOURS OF CANADIAN LAKES.

LAKE ONTARIO.

Kingston.—An excellent harbour, with from 18 to 20 feet water. There is also good anchorage north of Wolfe, Howe, and Amherst islands.

Weller's Bay.—Affords shelter for vessels of from 12 to 14 feet draught, with wind from north-west through east to south-east. The northern spit has been much washed away, and is fast disappearing.

Presqu' Ile.—A well sheltered and valuable harbour.

Cobourg.—A small pier-harbour with 8 feet 6 inches water would be difficult to enter in bad weather. It is proposed to deepen it to 12 feet. An inner basin, which is protected by a sand-spit, is being dredged out.

Port Hope.—A pier-harbour conveniently situated, and affording good shelter for vessels of light draught; a channel of 11 feet with an inner basin of the same depth has been opened, but is only kept free by constant dredging.

Toronto.—The peninsula which formed the harbour of Toronto has been partially washed away, leaving a breach from water's edge to water's edge of 10,517 feet, over 700 feet of which there are 7 feet of water, and over 300 in the centre the maximum depth of 8 feet to 8 feet 6 inches.

The western entrance has 11 feet, and the anchorage 12 feet, of water.

This was the only harbour in the western portion of Lake Ontario which could be safely entered in bad weather.

Burlington Bay.—The entrance into Burlington Bay is through a cribbed cut in the spit, which admits, in fine weather, a vessel drawing 12 feet.

Its approach during easterly gales is difficult and dangerous; a bar frequently forms at the outer end of the cut, which reduces the depth to 8 feet 6 inches. The swell during these gales is said to be very heavy.

Port Dalhousie.—At the northern entrance of the Welland Canal, will, in fine weather, admit a vessel drawing 12 feet; immediately inside is an extensive and well-protected basin; off it a dry dock for small vessels.

Niagara River.—An excellent harbour for any sized vessels which navigate the Lakes.

LAKE ERIE.

Port Colborne.—The principal entrance from Lake Erie to the Welland Canal affords shelter for a limited number of vessels; the navigation of the canal has frequently been retarded by the number of vessels seeking protection, and it has been proposed to increase the capacity of the port by erecting a breakwater on a circular reef extending from the shore to within 50 yards of the end of the pier.