

steamboat was taken to Toronto and the intermediate lake ports.

The Rideau steamer, in order to obtain popularity, became renowned for its *cuisine*; and those whose tastes were bibulous could not fail to recognize the irreproachable manner in which their wants in this respect were supplied. For the short period of its existence the Rideau passenger steamer had the highest reputation, but it became doomed a few years after the completion of the Saint Lawrence canals.

In describing these first canals, I have not limited myself to the dimensions of their early construction. I have also narrated the form of development which, after an interval of some years, has been attained. The fact however remains, that the province was indebted to Haldimand for their inception, and he may be regarded as the founder of the system. Although the original plan embraced but small dimensions, it was in conformity with the character of works of the class in England, perfected a few years previously by the genius of Brindley, and they were in accord with the emergencies of the time, the *bateau* being in use for the transport of freight. These early works between lake Saint Louis and lake Saint Francis were not simply the precursors of the enlarged lock and the continuous canals, by means of which, sixty years later, every obstacle to river navigation in the Saint Lawrence has been so admirably overcome; but it will be gratifying to Canadian sentiment to know that they were the first canals constructed on the continent of America. Such is the indisputable fact. They preceded the canals of the United States by a quarter of a century. Canada can justly claim to have been the first to introduce on the western continent the system of canal navigation now so generally established, and, it may be added, in later years to have carried it to the highest stage of development.*

* In United States encyclopedias, the construction of the Schuylkill Coal and Navigation Canal from Mill Creek to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is dated at 1816; that of the Northumberland, Wilkesbarre, at 1819. The date 1817 is assigned to the Erie canal, New York. The commencement of the Champlain

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