

Lawrence Canals to fully double their present value, and bring one of the greatest currents of commerce within our reach. As an instance of the effect of having and of not having an interest in this Western trade—it is sufficient to refer to the fact—that the tolls received on the Welland Canal are nearly three times greater than those received on the St. Lawrence Canals.

It cannot be denied that there has been some prejudice, or at least some indifference displayed in relation to this Canal, in consequence of the proposed point of departure, Caughnawaga. The entrance of a Canal at Caughnawaga would not benefit that point unless there were transshipment—and now that a Railroad is there, which will cause transshipment, any attempt to arrest the destinies of Caughnawaga will be as vain as it would be, on our part, suicidal. The Canal is now necessary to enable Montreal to compete with Caughnawaga—to make this City the depot and entrepot and enable vessels to load here for Lake Champlain instead of forcing this business to be done at Caughnawaga.

The great portion of the business of this Canal would be through trade, which if not invited down here would remain at and above Ogdensburgh. The benefit to be reaped by Montreal from the work is chiefly incidental—and the larger the trade of the Canal the greater will be these incidental advantages. With such a stream of shipping, as this Canal properly located would induce, a large portion of which would be partially laden or in ballast, you could send up freights to the Western Lakes at the lowest rates—and at any moment by the aid of the telegraph, arrest a cargo destined for New York, if required to complete a contract here. This Canal would complete your position as a depot or produce market, so that you could store here either for the Gulf trade and the Lower Provinces by sea navigation—or for New York and New England by Inland waters. When once Montreal is placed upon the route between New York and Chicago, steamers ascending or descending could fill out