

requiring no towpath, and which distance could be traversed in from one hour to one hour and fifteen minutes, thus reducing the time now occupied by a vessel in passing through the Cornwall Canal—generally ten hours up and twelve hours down—to between four and five hours. I ask the House if such a change as that in the interests of the trade of the country is not worth the expenditure even of a hundred thousand dollars or so in excess of Mr. Page's estimate of the cost of the present work? But, when I come to read my estimate I think hon. members will find that the work it is proposed to carry out, in order to make the canal perfectly safe, will cost less than the work proposed by Mr. Page. The estimated amount of the contracts that he has given out from Mille Roches to the Long Sault is \$1,200,000. To this I add—for which he has made no estimate, and I am sure I am \$75,000 or \$100,000 under what it will cost—for crib-work and rip-rap, which he proposes to add afterwards, \$300,000, which will bring the entire cost of Mr. Page's proposed work up to \$1,500,000. What is the estimate for the changes proposed? A new canal from Archibald's Point to Sand Bridge, inland, that can never break away, \$900,000; cost of the two dams, which Mr. Keefer proposes, \$195,000; from Maple Grove to Mille Roches, including bridge, \$140,000; compensation to contractors on account of change of line and abandonment of existing contract, say \$100,000, which will make a total of \$1,235,000. From that sum I should deduct the cost of two locks, which at a very low estimate would be \$300,000, or making the entire sum \$935,000, as against Mr. Page's estimate of \$1,500,000. But as our plan would also necessitate the raising of lock 20 six feet, I am willing to allow for that the full cost of the locks \$150,000, which would make the total cost of our plan \$1,185,000, still leaving a saving of \$315,000. In addition to the saving which this plan would cause, there is the maintenance and operating of two locks for all time saved by our proposition, or about, including interest on capital, \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year. There is one remark to be made in regard to the change we propose. No matter if our plan costs more than that of Mr. Page, if it were carried out the Cornwall Canal could be injured by nothing short of an earthquake. But I have yet to find the engineer or practical man who will say for one moment that the present Cornwall Canal bank will be safe for one hour when the frost begins to come out of the ground. I go further, and I venture to predict that where the break occurred in the canal in October last, unless some change is made in the