

ship railways, we have the table given below. In order to fairly compare routes, the rate per ton per mile covers cost of operation of ship railways and canals and six per cent. interest on cost of construction.

T A B L E.

RATE OVER HURONTARIO SHIP RY.— $3\frac{1}{10}$ MILLS PER TON MILE.	
Rate over Niagara Falls Ship Ry.....	7 mills per ton mile.
“ on Lakes.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ “ “ “ “
“ “ Ocean.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “ “ “
“ “ Michigan Peninsula Ship Ry.....	$3\frac{1}{2}$ “ “ “ “
“ “ “ “ Canal...	8 “ “ “ “
“ “ Ottawa Route.....	5 “ “ “ “
“ “ St. Lawrence Canals.....	7 “ “ “ “
“ “ Niagara Falls Ship Canal.....	12.5 “ “ “ “
“ “ Welland Canal .....	10 “ “ “ “

One of the conditions importantly affecting the various routes to the seaboard under consideration is the time lost during the year by the rigor of a Northern climate. The effect which this suspension of navigation, of from 126 to 150 days out of the 365, will have upon the transportation question it is difficult to estimate.

A careful examination has been made of the length of time each year that different harbours will be closed by ice. The table prepared by Mr. L. E. Cooley, late chief engineer of the Chicago Drainage District, appears to be the most reliable, although authorities differ, and it is used to determine the length of time that each of the routes will probably be open for business.

LOCALITY.	No. years Observa- tion.	No. days closed average.	Date closing.	Date opening.	Remarks.
Erie Canal	20	153	Dec. 3	May 5	Official closing
Welland Canal	20	136	“ 9	Apr. 24	Actual closing
Buffalo, N. Y.	10	126	“ 2	“ 16	Say 126 days
Detroit River	7	121	“ 2	“ 2	“ 140 days
Straits of Mackinaw	20	140	“ 3	“ 29	Actual closing
St. Mary's Canal	10	147	“ 26	May 7	
Duluth	9	132	“ 15	Apr. 24	
Montreal	10	131	“ 12	Mch. 29	Albany, N. Y.
Hudson River	19	107	Nov. 26	Apr. 1	Official closing
Ill. & Mich. Canal	41	126	Dec. 25	Mch. 4	Morris, Ill.
Illinois River	11 & 34	70	“ 23	Jan. 23	St. Louis, Mo.
Mississippi River	25	$30\frac{1}{2}$			