

The Navigation of the Assiniboine River.

The Assiniboine River has not been navigated for the past five or six years, since the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and for the last three years the summer level of the water has been too low to admit of navigation by the ordinary river steamers drawing four (4) feet of water.

The difference in level between Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, according to published maps and reports, has been stated at forty-one (41) feet.

The Red River at Winnipeg is about 16 feet higher than Lake Winnipeg.

The surveys first completed show that the difference of level between Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba is 100 feet, and that the Assiniboine at Long Lake is seventy (70) feet higher than at Winnipeg, over one-third of this rise occurring in the first ten miles above Winnipeg.

The fall of the Assiniboine has hitherto been supposed to be much less than it really is, and the maintenance of navigation will be more difficult and expensive than was expected.

The construction of the water power dam would give slack water navigation between it and Headingly.

By extending the canal which will be necessary to supply the mills below the dam, and constructing locks into the Assiniboine, navigation could be maintained between the Red River and Headingly. Above Headingly there appears to be no doubt that at low water, very heavy expenditure in the construction of dams and locks would be necessary to ensure navigation from the water of the Assiniboine alone, but as the navigation of the Assiniboine would not be of much benefit without its connection with Lake Manitoba by a canal, which will also be required to supply water for power at Winnipeg, it is expected that the additional water from the canal will obviate the necessity for any works except, perhaps, a few wing-dams, between Headingly and Baie St. Paul. This portion of the river was not included in the survey, which shows generally that while the river is not so favorable for navigation as was expected, the water power will be greater and more easily made available, and that the canal necessary for increased water power will probably ensure complete navigation.

Order in which Works should be Carried Out.

The Assiniboine is not at present navigable, and it cannot be made navigable without a large expenditure, part of which would be in the construction of a dam at Winnipeg.