

happen at the head of the canal, a man has to come, perhaps in the dead of the night, twelve miles to the superintendent to give him information, and then they have to travel back twelve miles again, so that from twelve to twenty-four hours is lost, to the serious damage of the trade of the country, before any repairing can be done. All that might be avoided by the establishment of a telephone, which would cost but a trifle. The Cornwall Canal is lighted up, as it has been for many years past, by coal oil. Why can it not be lighted, as the Lachine Canal is, by electric light, and thus give extra advantage to mariners? We found the benefit of the electric light during the breach in the canal in the fall, when electrical apparatus was established there, and work was done both night and day. That would greatly facilitate the working of the canal, and had we an electric light of our own at the time the break occurred, much time would have been saved. All these drawbacks mean great delay in the passage of vessels through the canal, and these delays have been complained of time and again. They have been frequently brought before the chief engineer, but he never could see his way to increase the facilities or to lessen the time occupied in passing through the canal. Now, I have pointed out to him a way by which he can make an uninterrupted inland canal at less cost than by the means which he proposes. By making the head of the canal at lock 20, he will diminish the delay in passing through the canal from the number of hours I have mentioned to four or five hours. All these things I have mentioned—the telegraph or telephone, the electric light—will contribute towards the safety of the navigation of the canal. I wish to say a word or two as to the condition of the lock houses. I suppose that the plans for these houses were submitted to the Chief Engineer of Canals. I know that the intention of the Government has never been directed to the condition of these lock houses, but now that they will of necessity be obliged, in consequence of the change in the location and the new entrance to the Cornwall Canal at the foot, and in consequence of the floods which occurred, to build new lock houses, I ask them at all events to make some little provision for the health of the people who occupy them. These houses have two small rooms on the ground floor. They are only one story in height. The lock laborers, almost without exception, are married men with families—some of them very young, some of them almost at the full age, or, at all events, young boys and girls at the age of puberty; and they are obliged to crawl in by a