

they something resemble sparrow eggs, and may be gathered in *bushels full* at the close of summer. Settlers will go ten miles to gather them; but as the mist of the marsh is extremely noxious to life, people prefer staying at home, instead of visiting the abode of the ague. The malaria of this dreadful place was the chief cause, in my opinion, for putting a stop to the progress of the public works in the warm weather of 1828; hundreds of labourers and mechanics were laid down with sickness, many of whom never rose again. To clear a way for the canal through this marsh was generally considered to be difficult, as labourers could not dig the bushes with spade and shovel, and as their stalks and roots were extremely tough, and could not be cut or dragged out of the way. I proposed the following method; but it was not acted upon, lest the matter should be made worse.

From this marsh two considerable streams broke away in different directions; one called the *Gananoque*, which falls into the St. Lawrence, the other *Cataraque* into Lake Ontario. At the head of these streams, viz. at the *White Fish Falls* on the former, and the *Roundtail* on the latter, people having *saw-mills* erected on them, had built dams, by which the water in the *marsh* was raised eight feet above its natural level. This was done for