

The proposed Baie Verte canal would not, in my opinion, afford any facility to the navigation and trade with the West Indies, South America or Great Britain; a reference to the maps accompanying the Report of the Trade Commission to the West Indies and South America, published in 1866, will show that the canal would not shorten the distance, or confer any other advantage to this trade.

The great rise and fall of the Bay of Fundy waters, and consequently the immense engineering difficulties to be overcome in the construction of the proposed canal, deters me from expressing an opinion, whether the work is desirable at a cost of eight millions of dollars.

The Bay of Fundy is boisterous and tempestuous and cannot be compared with the route by the Gut of Canso, which is almost land-locked and comparatively smooth.

If the canal was constructed, steamers and vessels might certainly pass through it to St John, carrying flour, furniture, and other Canadian manufactures, and goods ex English steamers. It is difficult to say what freight would be obtained for return cargoes; a little West India and perhaps some Mediterranean produce might occasionally be obtained, but it is to be borne in mind that the great staples now moved are flour down, and coal up; the former is now carried perhaps cheaper than it could be through the canal, and the latter, (coal) of course would not pass through the canal.

UNITED STATES.

GLOUCESTER (MASS.)

J. S. AYER, Gloucester, Massachusetts, United States:—I have been sailing in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, in the fishing business, for the last 25 years; am well acquainted with the fishing trade as it is now carried on, and as it has been carried on, and am now engaged on shore in carrying on fishing trade; I do not think American vessels going out to fish in Canadian waters would use the proposed canal; my reason is that the navigation of the Bay of Fundy would be considered dangerous at the head of the Bay, on account of strong tides, currents and fogs, which would also cause delay, and preference would be given to the present route through the Gut, and sometimes round Cape North; we engage a number of the men at the Gut and along the Nova Scotia shore, also procure there our cod fish bait.