

millions of bushels of grain, besides immense quantities of other provisions and vast numbers of cattle and hogs. This increasing volume of business cannot be maintained without recourse to the natural outlet of the lakes. * * * The St. Lawrence furnishes for the country bordering upon the lakes a natural outlet to the sea."(a) Our canal system, then, though it may compete with that of New York, does not appear to the representatives of Illinois to be "hostile to American interests." We have not yet succeeded in affording so much relief as we could wish to the bursting granaries of the West. Owing to a combination of causes, we only transported in 1863, 13,300,000 bushels of wheat through the Welland canal, of which but 3,303,000 passed on down the St. Lawrence; but even this must have been of great assistance to Western producers and forwarders. We hope, however, soon to do better than this. We have now but one grain portage railway connecting Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. We hope soon to have three. We contemplate the enlargement of our existing canals and the construction of another to connect the Georgian Bay more directly with the St. Lawrence, and shall thus endeavor to realize the ardent hopes of the Great West, "whose future prosperity depends," say the Illinois Commissioners, "upon cheap transportation to foreign markets." Here, however, it is perhaps allowable to state that we have not been permitted to realize the advantages contemplated by that clause of the Treaty under which the Government of the United States engaged "to urge upon the State Governments to secure to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty the use of the several State canals on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the United States." Although 808,289 tons of American shipping passed through the Welland canal in

(a) The value to the Western States of each additional facility for transportation cannot be over-rated. Each cent. per bushel taken off the cost of carrying their produce to market increases the value of their annual crop by \$6,500,000—they having raised in 1862, 650,000,000 bushels of wheat and corn.