

On approaching dyke No. 5, and when within about 500 feet, it turned suddenly to the left; and curving on a radius of about 500 feet, for a half circle, reversed suddenly, and curving to the right on a radius of 700 feet and describing an arc of 120 degrees, it passed, on a straight course of about 500 feet, through the spot chosen for the location of the draw span.

The channel followed the same curves, with change only caused by the wearing away of the east bar, until the breaking up and running out of the ice on 21st February, 1872.

The works were completed not too soon; the last stone being placed on dyke No. 6 on the 17th of same month.

Up to this date no real injury was done to the works of protection. At dyke No. 6, however, from the constant scouring for a period of two months, the brush had been undermined along the exposed face, and had settled on that side, at places, to amount of 25 feet; the rear line of the dyke being but little disturbed.

The form of the channel immediately before the "breakup" of the river is shewn upon the general map by a heavy dotted blue line.

The ice in the neighborhood of St. Joseph broke up February 21st; and on the 23rd it came down from above, with a rush, causing a sudden rise in the river to level of 89. For the few hours at which it remained at this stage, the flow consisted of a succession of gorges, forming and breaking away. The river foamed and hissed. The whole water-way was filled with broken ice grinding along the bottom, and pitching and tossing on the surface. The water itself was not to be seen, as the mass of broken ice, and drift rolled by; forrest trees and masses of brush, wreckage of all sorts, whirling around, and forced into the air by the upward action of the heaving ice.

A gorge had broken above. On the 24th a gorge occurred, commencing on the east side of the channel, a short distance below the line of dyke No. 4. The channel below this point was very crooked, and retarded the escape of the gorge.

The river hurled itself, with great force, against dyke No. 6; and washed along its face, increasing the undermining which had been already done.

In a few hours the whole face of the dyke had been undermined; the channel having scoured out to a depth of thirty-four feet. The dyke "turned over"!!

It remained, however, as was expected, and now forms a breakwater founded so deep that it is not likely to be disturbed.

No. 4 was not assailed in so violent a manner; and received no injury. No. 3, however, suffered, some two hundred feet at the lower end having been carried away; and deposited near dyke No. 4.

After a few hours the attack on Weavers Dyke seemed to relax; the current did not strike with equal force, nor in so direct a manner; and it gradually changed, so that the dyke was entirely relieved; the gorge ran out; and the river dropped to 84.

This relief was caused by the cutting through, by the flood, of a bend which had occasioned the jamming of the ice and drift.

At the end of April the channel had assumed a tolerably direct course; and followed what was nearly a central course between the

lower end having been carried away; and deposited near dyke No. 4.