

every direction with New England and New York lines of transportation.

Extend the large ship navigation from the upper lakes to these ports, and the surplus produce of the lake States, and that which is soon to come pouring in from the Northwest, will be carried to eight more distributing ports 300 miles nearer the points of consumption, instead of being, as now, all distributed from only one port, and conveyed by only two lines, which are inadequate to carry the surplus, and what is carried upon them is too expensively conveyed by round about paths before reaching the doors of the consumers, in all New England and Northern New York. And the same argument will apply, with equal force, in respect to the return commodities required by the Lake States and the Northwest, to come by shipping from the Eastern States *via* the Ontario ports.

In this enlarged facility of interchange of commodities lies the blessing a Canal on our side of the Falls would confer upon the Lake States, the Northwest, and all New York. though our large ships should not be permitted to pass below Ogdensburgh or St. Regis, on the St. Lawrence. But let such vessels heavily freighted with grain, lumber, timber, iron, and copper freely enter into Lake Ontario, and it is morally certain that not only would the St. Lawrence Canals be immediately enlarged, but competition would force the enlargement of the Erie and Oswego Canals to dimensions suitable for lively participation in the transmission of heavy freight, and then all obstacles causing the breaking of cargo would be removed, that now block the passage from all the lakes directly to our seaports, or to those on foreign coasts, for vessels large enough to cheapen freights down to a minimum.

One more objection raised to this Northern route is that "It is frozen up half the year." This is an exaggeration of the time. It is admitted that generally the rivers connecting the lakes are closed or clogged with floating ice from December 10th to April 10th, that is, for four months in the year. And so it is on the Mississippi above the mouth of the Ohio; on the Missouri; on the Illinois; also on the Illinois Canal; and for three months in the summer season, the low water in these channels is a very