

Yet the man who penned this report in 1874, who knew so thoroughly then that the bank was so bad that he could not move the guard lock further down, to-day, in his report, affirms that the bank is thoroughly safe and thoroughly sound, and that he has no hesitation in saying that the construction, under his present proposed plan, is feasible and safe, and that there can be no doubt of the correctness of his statement. If that is not enough, let me read you this further passage from his report:

"It is, therefore, believed that whatever advantages could be gained from a more easterly position for the guard-lock, they are more than counterbalanced by the risk connected with raising the water on an uncertain portion of the bank."

This, Sir, is the testimony of the Chief Engineer of Canals himself, and I do not think that anything has occurred to improve the quality of the bank since that time. He, himself, has shown by the report he has made, that the breach which occurred in the bank in the month of October last, and which caused so much injury to the commerce of this country, which resulted in such terrible loss to the merchants, mariners and others, in this country, was produced in the manner which had been predicted by himself and by the engineers who constructed this canal. He objects, it is true, to the dams which we proposed, as being equally uncertain and insecure. He surely cannot have consulted the engineering works of modern times, or he would know, from the reports that had been given in connection with the great dams that have broken away in different places in other countries, that there is a method of making dams secure, dams which will last for all time. The causes through which dams heretofore have broken away, have been thoroughly exposed, and amongst those causes is the cause of the breaking away of the banks of the Cornwall Canal in the month of October last, and that cause was the puddling of that canal by Colonel Philpotts, in his endeavor to make the bank, which he knew was bad, perfectly safe. Let me read to you from Mr. McAlpine—and there is no higher engineering authority on this continent, or in the old world, upon works of this kind—what he says as regards this puddling of banks, and he gives it as the result of an examination made in the breaking away of dams, both in the old country and in this, particularly the Croton dam, that was constructed by Mr. Jervis, one of the most eminent engineers in the United States, and another one which was constructed by the then Major General R. E. Lee, the great Confederate General of the South, one of the most accomplished engineers in America.