

liminary difficulty of finance. The first "sod" of the new undertaking was turned amid much rejoicing, and from that time to this the work has gone steadily on, with various vicissitudes. The canal starts from the left bank of the Mersey, a little above Liverpool, and nearly opposite Garston. It then skirts the estuary as far as Runcorn, where it turns inland, and following the course of the Irwell, terminates at Trafford Bridge in docks some eighty acres in extent. The canal is thus about 35 miles long, with a bottom of 120 feet and a depth of 26 feet. The cost of the undertaking has grown largely since the first estimates were published, and had it not been for the prompt assistance of the corporations of Manchester and Salford the work would probably, more than once, have come to a standstill. But it is now, as I have said, approaching completion, and when it is finished it will have been a work of far greater magnitude and difficulty than the cutting of the great canal at Suez. Then there is the great ship canal across the isthmus of Corinth, which in the face of almost incredible difficulties and obstacles, has lately been opened by the King of Greece; the Nicaragua ship canal, also now under construction; the Niagara Falls ship canal, which obtained an Act of incorporation from the Dominion Parliament during its last session; and various other works of a similar character projected or under way in the sister Colonies of the Empire. In the Dominion, while we are building new canals on the St. Lawrence and at Sault Ste. Marie, the friends and advocates of various other projects, including the Hurontario ship canal, the St. Clair Flats canal, and the Caughnawaga ship canal, are all eagerly pressing them upon public attention. Again, there is the submarine tunnel to Prince Edward Island, which the inhabitants of that picturesque and salubrious region, keep constantly before the public view, and to some purpose, for they have succeeded in obtaining from Parliament an appropriation for a survey. Is it a time for Ottawans and the friends of the Ottawa Valley to be idle and inactive; to remain with folded arms quietly inert? I think you will all agree with me that it is not, but that with all this display of energy and activity about us, the time has arrived when we should unite our forces and determinedly make a demand that something should be done for us—that we should be given our share of the good things. We are not a factious or unreasonable people, we men of the North. We have always been ready to contribute of our means and substance towards the development of the country, East, West or North-