

and that is the immediate construction of the Georgian Bay Ship Canal, which he has strenuously advocated with his pen and his voice for the last forty years. It will be one of very great value towards the development of Canadian resources and the extension of Canadian commerce, and therefore calculated to build up the cities of Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, and all the towns in any measure dependent upon these centres.

The opening up of this channel will give the advantage of cheap water transportation through the heart of a country larger than all New England, and superior to it in richness and variety of resources. The Valley of the Ottawa, with a superficial area of more than sixty thousand square miles, contains the largest depot of white pine timber in existence. It contains vast quantities of spruce, the basis of the pulp making industry. Our forests of hardwood, suitable for house finishing, furniture and other manufactures, are extensive and valuable. There are inexhaustible deposits of iron, phosphates, mica, graphite, asbestos, serpentine, galena, silver, copper, nickel, marble and other mineral products. We have also over the whole area a large proportion of cultivable and grazing lands, fertile and excellently watered.

The Ottawa Valley, in its thousands of lakes acting as natural reservoirs, and in the grand rapids of the Ottawa river and its numerous tributaries, possesses water power far surpassing in the aggregate that of New England, both for grinding western grain and for manufacturing for domestic markets. For foreign commerce New England has the advantage of an ocean frontage; for domestic trade, the Ottawa Valley is favoured by its situation on the shortest system of internal navigation in the world.