

and Transportation Companies in connection with Canadian Inland Commerce. It is my purpose, therefore, to bring under your notice some important particulars relating to the existing traffic between ports on Lake Superior and the Lower Lakes,—to the increase of the trade that may almost immediately be looked for,—and to the improvements in navigation that must inevitably be made to secure much of it for the future.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE TRAFFIC.

Detailed statements showing the traffic passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal during 1879 and 1880 are given in pp. 11 to 15. It will be quite enough to submit here a few items of the upward and downward business in each of four years,—1873, 1874, and 1879, 1880,—showing an annual aggregate amounting to many millions of dollars:—

SOME ITEMS OF UPWARD TRAFFIC.

	1873.	1874.	1879.	1880.
Flour, brls.....	26,795	29,060	15,262	17,191
Coal, tons.....	96,780	84,326	110,704	170,501
Coarse Grains, bush.....	309,645	29,809	291,505	312,716
Ground Feed, tons.....	5,314	3,172	2,630	1,430
Kerosene Oil, brls.....	5,738	6,078	8,200	14,752

SOME ITEMS OF DOWNWARD TRAFFIC.

	1873.	1874.	1879.	1880.
Copper, Mass, tons.....	2,816	3,954	1,440	1,795
Copper, Ingot, tons.....	2,104	13,345	16,148	11,839
Stamp work, tons.....	4,007	8,245	4,721	1,959
Iron Ore, tons.....	504,121	505,384	540,075	670,973
Pig Iron, tons.....	39,849	41,905	6,666	6,004
Silver Ore, tons.....	580	601	324	66
Fish, half brls.....	9,228	43,630	12,071	13,508
Fish, fresh, cars.....			148	124
Wheat, bush.....	2,119,997	1,470,955	2,603,666	2,105,922
Flour, brls.....	145,897	269,347	498,943	506,459
Feed, tons.....	214	970	1,238	886

The statements above-referred-to consist of four tables, showing all the kinds and quantities of merchandise passing through the Canal either way.

Table I. shows the amount of the traffic between Chicago and ports in Lake Superior; while Table II. indicates the variety and quantities of the merchandise going and coming between Lake Superior and Lower Lake ports,—all, as far as can be ascertained, in U. S. craft. The arrangements contemplated by the U. S. Government (hereafter referred to) for the improvement of a channel for the exclusive use of American vessels, show how great a value is set upon the future commerce of the North-West, and a firm determination to keep control of it, at all hazards.