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barges using it will have a capacity of some 35,000 bushels of wheat, and will afford a very cheap means of transportation so cheap that our present Welland-St. Lawrence Canals would be utterly unable to compete with it. Even as compared with the present 6-foot Erie Canal, navigated by barges scarcely one-fourth the capacity of those that will ply in the New Erie, the advantage which our 14-foot Welland-St. Lawrence system has is so slight that a few years ago the imposition of a trivial toll of one-half cent per bushel and an almost insignificant tonnage tax turned the scale against us. As the cost of transportation by the New Erie will be certainly not more than two-thirds the present charge, it is evident that for Canada to stand still or even to hesitate would be suicidal; for it must not be forgotten that our rivals have and probably always will have a very substantial advantage in cheaper ocean freights and lower insurance.

Must Provide
for Needs of the
Future.

It is, then, absolutely essential that Canada's canal system shall be able, by reason of its capacity and speed, to carry grain to tide-water more cheaply and advantageously than will be possible by the New Erie. It is not necessary here to more than state this, for as to it there is practical unanimity of Canadian public opinion. As has been said, standing still or even delay would for Canada be suicidal. The first would mean that not a bushel of all the teeming harvests of the future North-West would find its way to the world's markets by Canadian waterways or in Canadian vessels. To hesitate would allow our neighbors to obtain a commercial advantage that it would be difficult for us to overcome—impossible to surmount entirely. The new Canadian water-route must be in every way superior to the Erie, and it must be completed as soon or nearly as soon. As the Erie will be the best barge canal in the world, ours must be the best fresh-water ship canal.

THE VARIOUS PLANS PROPOSED.

There are three projects proposed, and the Canadian people, or the Government and Parliament acting for the people, must choose between them. These projects are:

The Welland
Improvement
Alone.

- (1) To immediately deepen and enlarge, shorten and improve the Welland Canal sufficiently to permit the passage from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, in the shortest time practicable, of the largest vessels now navigating or likely to navigate the lakes.