

Well, Sir, I would have supposed that, after the long experience of the Chief Engineer of Canals, he would not at this time of day, tell us that it was necessary to have a towpath by which to tow the immense vessels we are going to have through 14 feet of water, so soon as this work is built, by horses along the bank. He must know that the day for towing vessels by horses in a 14-foot channel, is past; he must know that the plan which was proposed by these eminent engineers years ago, is a plan which most effectually forbade anything like a tow path, and, therefore, the objection which he makes on that score, is one which ought not to be entertained for a moment.

"The shore along the north side of Sheik's Island has a very tortuous and irregular outline, so that to make anything like a suitable towing path along it would be attended with a vast deal of uncertainty besides expense; still were this not done in the case of making the "Sny" the navigable channel, a swing bridge would be required for canal purposes over each of the openings made in the bank, instead of one swing bridge for public travel across the canal at Moulinette."

I do not remember when I have read anything more disingenuous. If the dams are built, and in wording this paragraph he presupposes they are built, no bridge is necessary. Anyone who may desire to visit that island, the inhabitants of the island, coming to the main shore, would cross upon the tops of the dams from either end, and no bridge would be required, and the fine road along the island would be used by them. Probably the best road in the township of Cornwall is that on the north shore of Sheik's Island, and no bridge whatever would be necessary. In that connection let me say, that the plan Mr. Page sends down in connection with these proposed dams is a plan more misleading than calculated to give reliable information to the Government, to members of the House and the country. He lays down water lines as if that island were flooded. It is true that in one or two places where the banks are shelving, the water may come up on the shore a little distance, but a small bank of not over three feet high in any place, and not extending an entire length of more than 200 or 300 feet, would prevent one drop of water at the highest known flood injuring any portion of the island. The chief engineer proceeds:

"Having already stated how it is proposed to enlarge and deepen the present canal and the manner in which the material excavated is intended to be disposed of, namely, to strengthen the weakest and least secure parts of the present banks or those parts of them that are closest to the margin of the river, the aggregate extent of which, there is good reason to believe, is less than one-third of the whole distance, or less than three times the length of the two dams that would be required to connect Sheik's Island with the banks of the canal."