

The Public Works of the Dominion consist of a canal and railway system; together with certain public buildings. The Canal system was devised to overcome the impediments to navigation found in the St. Lawrence, to connect with the Great Lakes and Great West. The St. Lawrence in itself is one of the most remarkable physical features of North America; and, running North-East, is on the direct line of the shortest sailing circle from Liverpool to North America. It seems to be intended by nature to be the great highway of the continent. The navigation of the River and Gulf below Quebec have been and are constantly being improved by the best constructed light-houses, while the consideration of a further improvement of the Canal system attracts the earnest consideration of the people and Government. In addition and as an aid to this system, a very extensive Railway system, of an aggregate length of 2,799 miles, is already constructed; while other and very extensive railway works are in process of construction.

The purpose of the Canals of Canada for overcoming impediments of natural navigation may be thus summarized:—

(1) For the St. Lawrence navigation;

(2) For the Montreal and Kingston navigation, *via* the Ottawa river;

(3) For the Richelieu and Lake Champlain navigation;

(4) For the St. Peters Canal navigation, Nova Scotia.

THE ST. LAWRENCE NAVIGATION.

The St. Lawrence navigation extends from the Straits of Belle Isle, Atlantic Ocean, to Fond du Lac, at the head of Lake Superior; a distance of 2,384 statute miles. It reaches the middle of the continent.

The Canadian canals on this route are the Lachine, the Beauharnois, the Cornwall, the Farran's Point, the Rapide Plat, the Galops, and the Welland. Their united length is 70 83-100 miles, and the total lockage is 536½ feet, through 54 locks.

The Sault Ste. Marie Canal, a United States work, supplies the last link. This canal avoids the Sault Ste. Marie Rapids, and unites the two lakes, Superior and Huron. Its length is a little over one mile, with eighteen feet lockage.

Lake Superior is about 600 feet above the highest tidal flow of the St. Lawrence at Three Rivers.

TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM STRAITS OF BELLE ISLE TO FOND DU LAC, AT HEAD OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

From	To	Sections of Navigation.	Statute Miles.	
			Inter- mediate	Total to Straits of Belle Isle
Straits of Belle Isle.....	Quebec.....	Riv & Gulf St. Law'ce.	826	826
Quebec.....	Three Rivers.....	River St. Lawrence to Tide-water.....	74	900
Three Rivers.....	Montreal.....	Do do.....	86	986
Montreal.....	Lachine.....	Lachine Canal.....	8½	994½
Lachine.....	Beauharnois.....	Lake St. Louis.....	15¼	1,009¾
Beauharnois.....	Ste. Cécile.....	Beauharnois Canal.....	11½	1,021
Ste. Cécile.....	Cornwall.....	Lake St. Francis.....	32¾	1,053¾
Cornwall.....	Dickinson's Landing....	Cornwall Canal.....	11½	1,065½
Dickinson's Landing....	Farran's Point.....	River St Lawrence.....	5	1,070½
Farran's Point.....	Upper end of Croyle's Island.....	Farran's Point Canal ..	¾	1,071
Upper end of Croyle's Island.....	Williamsburgh or Mor- risburgh.....	River St. Lawrence....	10½	1,081½
Williamsburgh.....	Rapide Plat.....	Rapide Plat Canal.....	4	1,085½
Rapide Plat.....	Point Iroquois Village..	River St. Lawrence....	4½	1,090
Point Iroquois Village..	Upper end Presqu'île...	Point Iroquois Canal...	3	1,093
Presqu'île.....	Pt. Cardinal, Edw'dsb'gh	Junction Canal.....	2½	1,095½
Point Cardinal.....	Head of Galops Rapids.	Galops Canal.....	2	1,097½
Galops Rapids.....	Prescott.....	River St. Lawrence....	7½	1,105
Prescott.....	Kingston.....	Do do.....	59	1,164
Kingston.....	Port Dalhousie.....	Lake Ontario.....	170	1,334
Port Dalhousie.....	Port Colborne.....	Welland Canal.....	27	1,361
Port Colborne.....	Amherstburgh.....	Lake Erie.....	232	1,593
Amherstburgh.....	Windsor.....	Detroit River.....	18	1,611
Windsor.....	Foot of Ste. Mary's Isl'd	Lake Ste. Claire.....	25	1,636
Lake Ste. Claire.....	Sarnia.....	Ste. Claire River.....	33	1,669
Sarnia.....	Foot of St. Joseph's Isl'd	Lake Huron.....	270	1,939
Foot of St. Joseph's Isl'd	" Sault Ste. Marie.	St. Mary's River.....	47	1,986
Sault Ste. Marie.....	Head of " "	Sault Ste. Marie Canal.	1 1-17	1,987 1-17
Head of Sault Ste. Marie	Pointe aux Pins.....	St. Mary's River.....	7	1,994 1-17
Pointe aux Pins.....	Fond du Lac.....	Lake Superior.....	390	2,384 1-17

Out of the 2,384 miles, from the Straits of Belle Isle to the head of Lake Superior, 71¾ miles are artificial navigation, and 1312½ open navigation.

Straits of Belle Isle, to Liverpool, 1,942 geographical miles, or 2,234 statute miles. The total ascent from tide-water to Lake Superior is about 600 feet.