

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

(New-Jersey Report concluded.)

In planning a work which may continue for ages, great care should be taken to provide against emergencies which may occur at a future period. Although the natural streams may at present be sufficient for the supply of the canal in the existing state of commerce, prudence requires us to look forward to the period when by the improvements of agriculture in draining swamps and low grounds, and by constructing & clearing water courses, the natural summer supply of the streams will be greatly diminished, while the commerce will be increased by the completion of other canals and improvements, enlarging the sphere of action and intercourse, and which in time of war may be augmented in a tenfold proportion, by armed vessels withdrawing from the ocean within our own territories and navigating safe waters. Attention should also be paid to the situation of the mills and machinery dependent on the streams. The preservation of these valuable works is of vital importance to the inhabitants of the district, and although the owners may be fully compensated if deprived of them, still the loss to the state would be immense, and ought to be avoided. With this view the commissioners have proposed to appropriate for reservoirs four hundred acres of land, to be procured while it may be obtained at a moderate rate, and before the rise in the value of the soil, which may probably take place from the further improvement of the country, the erection of buildings, and the vicinity of the canal. The reservoirs collecting the water which would otherwise run off in injurious freshes overflowing the low grounds, and occasioning back water at the mills, will benefit the agriculturalists and manufacturers, and the water escaping from them by soakage will augment the springs and water courses, on a lower level, and furnish a further gradual supply to the adjacent mills, and in some cases to the canal itself. If the reservoirs make a part of the original undertaking, they will be better arranged than if introduced at a future day, as a substitute for deficiencies; and, if judiciously planned, there will not be the same danger of their injuring the health of the inhabitants by miasma as there is from the overflowing of the low grounds of rivers. Reservoirs have been constructed for many of the canals of Europe: those of the canal of Languedoc contain five hundred and ninety-five acres, and those of the Rochdale canal, cover three hundred and eighty acres. The canal of the Forth and Clyde has one reservoir which covers a surface of fifty acres, and is twenty-four feet deep; and another which contains seventy acres, and is banked up twenty-two feet at the sluice. Some of the proposed reservoirs may include ravines and swamps, at a distance from the canal, and if by embankments the water covers four hundred acres of land ten feet deep on an average, and if the reservoirs are filled by freshes twice in a year, there will be three hundred and forty-eight millions, four hundred and eighty thousand cubic feet, and after deducting evaporation, seepage and leakage, which may be estimated at two thirds of the whole, there will still be one hundred and sixteen millions, one hundred and sixty thousand cubic feet applicable to the canal, which with locks of five feet rise will supply a sufficiency of water for two hundred and eighty-five days, a longer period than the usual season of navigation. But if it is contemplated to have locks of ten feet rise instead of five feet, then it will be necessary for the reservoirs to contain six hundred and sixty acres, ten feet deep on an average, instead of four hundred, in order to supply water for two hundred and eighty-five days. To the question, whether there will be sufficient water to fill the reservoirs? It may be answered, that Mr. Randel appears to have measured the water of the streams by the quantity used daily at the mills; and there is no estimate of the quantity which runs off over the dams during freshes. If we estimate that the district of country from which the water descends into the streams that may supply the canal, contains seventy-five square miles, and if we compute that only thirty inches of rain fall annually on an average, and that the quantity running from the surface, or issuing from the earth, within the seventy-five miles, amounts to three fifths of the quantity falling as rain, there will be three thousand and one hundred and thirty six millions, three hundred and twenty thousand cubic feet, that flow off in the streams annually; deducting from this amount two thousand seven hundred and five millions fifteen thousand cubic feet, the quantity flowing in the ordinary way at the mills according to Mr. Randel's measurement, there will remain four hundred and twenty-six millions, three hundred and five thousand cubic feet for the amount of freshes, from which there will be taken three hundred and forty-eight millions four hundred and eighty thousand cubic feet for the supply of the reservoirs, leaving still a surplus of seventy-seven millions eight hundred and twenty-five thousand cubic feet. It will be expedient notwithstanding,

that there should be a communication by feeders with all the streams which may be applicable to the canal, as it would be unsafe to rely on the reservoirs in case of emergency. Several of the feeders will be branch canals for the immediate benefit of the district, conveying articles which without water carriage would not bear the expense of transportation, as street & stable manure, marl, plaster, lime, ashes, ores, potter's clay, bricks, wood, charcoal, fossil coal, turf, &c. The branch canals would diverge from the grand trunk in various directions, and could be constructed at a small expense for boats seventy-five feet long, six feet wide, and nearly thirteen inches deep, carrying twenty tons. There may be also other modes adopted for procuring a supply of water; it may be advantageously raised from the Delaware or from the Raritan, by a variety of propelling powers. Thousands of tons of marl, of a fertilizing quality almost equal to foreign plaster, drawn from inexhaustible sources near the track of the canals, will be annually called for by the agriculturalists of the adjacent states. This great descending weight may be made the propelling power of two-thirds of the weight of water transported at the same time to the canal, while the descent of the marl may be effected by transshipment without consuming the water of the upper level; the same machinery will answer for several other articles of freight, and by other machinery and by transshipping the articles, the transportation may be extended to an immense amount without the loss of water. Undertakings are frequently objected to on account of their novelty, and obstacles which appear insurmountable at first are considered trifling when we become familiar with them; fortunately no gigantic projects from the component parts of the proposed canal; by comparing the plans of the canals of other countries, it will be seen that the difficulties which were overcome in Europe were of much greater magnitude. The canal of Languedoc, connecting the Mediterranean sea with the Atlantic ocean, is one hundred and eighty miles long; the proposed canal will be twenty-nine miles long. The canal of Holstein, connecting the Baltic sea with the German ocean, is fifty miles long and ten deep; the proposed canal will be nine feet deep. The canal of Languedoc is one hundred and forty feet wide, including the towing paths, and the canal of Holstein is fifty feet wide at the bottom; the proposed canal will be eighty-six feet wide including the towing paths, and twenty-six feet wide at the bottom. The summit of the canal of Languedoc, six hundred and thirty-nine feet above the tide water; of the Chester canal six hundred and twenty-six; of the Leeds canal, five hundred and twenty-five; and of the Rochdale canal, five hundred and twenty-one feet! The summit of the proposed canal will be only sixty-eight feet above the tide water. The canal of Ladoga, is obstructed by ice above six months in the year; the proposed canal will not be obstructed by ice three months in the year. In the Rochdale canal, part of the water of one of the reservoirs is raised above sixty-five feet by steam. At Havercastle, a canal passes through a tunnel of subterranean passage which is two thousand eight hundred and eighty yards in length, and more than seventy yards below the surface of the earth. At Sapperton, there is a tunnel nearly two miles and a half in length. At Stratford meadows, a canal is carried on an embankment which is nine hundred yards, seventeen feet high, & one hundred and twelve feet in breadth at the bottom. At Barton, an aqueduct nearly fifty feet high, and five hundred yards long, conveys a canal over the navigable river Iwel; and near bowling bay, an aqueduct of four arches carries the canal of the Forth and Clyde over the river Kelvin, and a valley sixty-five feet deep, and four hundred feet in length. In the canal of Languedoc, there are one hundred and fourteen locks, and only seven miles of the canal are on the same level: in the proposed canal there will not be more than thirteen locks at each end; and the intermediate distance of twenty-nine miles, will be on the same level, and without an obstruction. It will also be seen that great undertakings for the improvement of inland navigation are not confined to Europe; the Royal canal of China, from Canton to Peking, is eight hundred and twenty-five miles long, fifty feet wide, and nine feet deep. To complete the investigation, it would be proper to examine the probable amount of intercourse in number of boats and tonnage, and the rates of tolls and receipts, and also the probable annual expenditures by salaries of superintendents and workmen, by wear and tear, and by contingencies. The commissioners have forbore to make their enquiry, as it was not made part of their duty by the law under which they acted, and as it has heretofore been represented to the house of Assembly, by a committee of the body, that "it is ascertained, from data tolerably correct, that during the late war, a sum little short of two millions of dollars, was paid for cartage of various kinds of produce,

merchandise, and military stores across this state." In the foregoing estimate, the commissioners have inserted every item of expense which has occurred to them in the investigation, as applicable to the proposed undertaking; but as they do not profess to have any practical knowledge on the subject, they may have omitted charges which, by some persons may be esteemed necessary, and there may be plans of work inserted which an experienced engineer may alter or dispense with. It rests with the Legislature to determine whether it would be most expedient for the state to appropriate the sum requisite for the purpose by loans or solicitations, or to permit individuals to subscribe, reserving a part for the state; or to grant to the United States authority to construct the canal, with such reservation of privileges to this state, and to the inhabitants in the vicinity of the canal as it may be deemed expedient to stipulate. If the latter proposition should be determined on, they are of opinion, that it may tend to induce the congress of the U. States, to promote and complete a general plan of inland navigation, as a strong cement of the Union, an excellent preservative of the lives of voyaging citizens and marines, a sure protection for domestic commerce; a ready way of transporting troops and military stores, and a cheap and safe mode of conveying the products and fabrics of American agriculturalists and manufacturers to American consumers. If the design should be commenced and accomplished under the direction of the United States, officers of the corps of engineers, with a due proportion of privates, may be stationed at the locks and reservoirs, and the whole business conducted with science and economy. These civil fortifications, the cheap defence of the nation, and the silent preventative of the harm of an enemy, will then be arranged on the same plan and for the same vessels from Massachusetts to Georgia, and the whole voyage performed under the superintending care of the general government. The commissioners regret that the short period of time since the completion of the field work by Mr. Randel, prevents them from making a perfect investigation and report. Being aware of the general solicitude on the subject, they have concluded to terminate their enquiries without further delay, and with all due consideration, they respectfully submit the result of their labours. JOHN RUTHERFORD, JOHN N. SIMPSON, GEORGE HOLCOMBE. New-Branswick, Jan. 22, 1817.

CONGRESSIONAL.

IN THE H. OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Remarks of Mr. Williams, of N. Carolina in support of his motion to repeal the Internal Taxes.

Mr. WILLIAMS said, it was at the request of a number of gentlemen who were friendly to the subject of the resolution now before the House, & in consequence of what was said by the gentleman from South-Carolina, the chairman of the committee of ways and means (Mr. Lowndes) that he did not call up the resolution on Saturday last. The chairman of the committee said, we might go on with the appropriation bills, and if afterwards the House should determine to abolish the taxes and reduce the army, the expenditure would be according to that reduction, and not according to the appropriation; for example, if we made appropriations to support an army of ten thousand men, and afterwards reduced the army to five thousand, the expenditure would be in proportion to the five, and not to the ten thousand. Mr. W. said it had struck him as a very singular fact in our proceedings, that we should be first called upon to make the appropriations, to become as it were, pledged to a certain amount, and then proceed to ascertain our means to raise the money; and to do that last, which ought to have been done first. Thus, he said, was repugnant to all the maxims of common prudence in private life. No man, when about to build a house or improve a farm, would precipitately execute the object, and then count the cost; but he would, in the first place, examine all his sources of income; he would estimate the probable amount of his revenue, and then proceed to the objects on which that revenue was to be expended. It was for the purpose of changing the order of our proceedings in that particular, that he was anxious to see the tax bills exhibited in the House every year, and acted upon finally, before we had appropriated a single cent to defray even the civil list and contingent charges of government. Then we could accommodate the appropriation to the money at our command; then, in the words of the old adage, we should cut the coat according to the cloth. But the gentleman from South-Carolina had assured the House that if any reduction was made, the expenditure would not be according to the existing establish-

ments, but rather in proportion to whatever reduction of the establishments the House may hereafter think proper to adopt. This assurance, coming from the honorable chairman, had removed his impressions as to the necessity of acting immediately on the resolution submitted by him on Friday. That gentleman, Mr. Speaker, (pointing to Mr. Lowndes) at all times and on all occasions, has conducted himself in this House, so as to secure not only the confidence and esteem, but I believe the admiration of every member on this floor; but while I pay this just tribute to the merits of that gentleman, I must be allowed to say, that I think he was incorrect when he stated, in reply to the remarks I made on Friday, that I had failed to shew any sufficient reasons in support of the resolution then under consideration. I offered the resolution from a sense of duty to this nation—from a regard to those principles which certainly at one time were deemed orthodox, and upon which the republicans secured the confidence and support of these United States. In reply to the call made by the gentleman, I stated that the taxes were continued last year on the ground that they were imperiously and absolutely necessary; that it was estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, that the whole revenue of 1816, arising from commerce, the direct tax and internal duties, would be something more than twenty-five millions of dollars; but it now appeared that the revenue greatly exceeded that amount; that it was more than thirty-eight millions of dollars—making a difference of about thirteen millions between the estimate & the revenue which accrued. Seeing this, I felt justified in stating, that I could not put implicit confidence in the Treasury reports, and that I was unwilling to continue the tax on the people of this country, when it did not appear to be necessary. Gentlemen now offer the same arguments in favor of continuing the taxes which they urged last year. But as the results of the present year prove, beyond all doubt, that their arguments on the former occasion were fallacious, I therefore contend, that they are fallacious now and deserve no more weight or influence with this House than should have been given to the falsified arguments, I mean, by the actual results of the present year, and so made known to us by the Secretary of the Treasury in his annual report. In connection with this view of the case, I mean to say, that it was a part of my plan to reduce the army; that a proposition to this effect was lying on your table, and subject to be called up at any time; that if the taxes were necessary to support an army of ten thousand men, they could not be necessary to support that army, reduced to the number of five thousand. Having made these statements, and relying on them to support my proposition, I felt that I had sufficiently answered the call of the gentleman from South-Carolina. But, sir, I was not bound to shew (even thus far) the practicality of dispensing with the taxes; on the contrary, these who are for continuing them, must shew the impracticability of such dispensation. If any one calls upon me for a debt, my first enquiry is, whether the demand be just; if just, I pay it—if unjust, I refuse payment. In like manner, when the people of this country are called upon for taxes, it is incumbent on government, or on those who speak its language on this floor, to shew that the taxes are necessary; if necessary, there is no nation on earth more willing to pay them than the people of the United States. If unnecessary, the people will refuse payment and they ought to do so. Upon this ground then, I say, the burden of proof lies on the gentleman from South-Carolina. Let him shew (and no one is more able to do it than himself) that these taxes are necessary, and, my word for it, the people will cheerfully pay them. I be report, sir, of the late Secretary of the Treasury to the President, and the report of the present Secretary, have both gone abroad into the country. From these reports the people expect, nay, demand, a repeal of the taxes. But in addition to all this, the people have the solemn promise of Congress, expressed in the acts of 1813 and 14, that these taxes would continue one year after the war, and no longer. And can it be a fit way to govern this nation, to assure the people, in the solemn form of a legislative act, that taxes would cease to exist one year after the war; and when it appears to be perfectly in your power to comply with the assurance, to renege it? No, sir, the better way is to comply with your promise immediately by repealing the taxes. Then we may not only expect, but challenge the confidence and support of our fellow-citizens. I did not expect, when I introduced the resolution, that it would excite unpleasant feelings in the mind of any one. But it appears to have had that effect upon the gentleman from South-Carolina, (Mr. Caldwell) who generally sits near me. That gentleman seems to have a prescriptive right to know and expound the motives of others, when they differ from him in opinion. On many occasions he has intimated, that members who differed from him were aiming at popularity; and it was well said by a poet of ancient

date, but immortal fame, who sacrificed the vices of man in the Augustan age, that we were blind as to our own faults but eagle-eyed as to the faults of others; & were always most apt to condemn others for the very faults to which we ourselves were most liable. In no other way can I account for the propensity of the gentleman always to charge others with aiming at popularity, than by supposing that he measures the conduct of others by the standard which exists in his own breast. I here beg leave to inform the gentleman, that if he does not mistake his own temper, he very much mistakes that of others, when he supposes that such reflections will drive them from the position they have taken. After the subject of the resolution I had introduced was disposed of; after the House had determined to proceed to the orders of the day, the gentleman rises in his place, and gives us a long lecture on economy. Who, sir, could have thought that the gentleman would condescend to use that word, so unfashionable, so unusual in the vocabulary of an independent politician? But the gentleman said he had no view to popularity in pronouncing his lecture on economy, and we are bound to believe it, because he said so. If, however, he had been disposed to mount the hobby-horse which all others was most fleet and likely to distance the whole turf, he could not designly have selected a better one for that purpose, than the one on which he happened to be mounted by mere accident. The gentleman seemed also to complain that the statements produced to support my proposition were not satisfactory. Permit me now, sir, to inform him that I read Treasury reports as he reads the Constitution; that, as he reads the Constitution and interprets it liberally for the purpose of raising and spending money; so I construe liberally the reports of the treasury, for the purpose of saving money. The gentleman said he did not read the constitution with the technical subtleties and refinements of a lawyer, but he read it for the purpose of understanding that it contained a liberal grant of powers to Congress; that the first impressions made on his mind when reading the constitution with this view were more lasting as well as generally more correct. Shall I not be at liberty then to say that the first impression made on my mind when reading the treasury report was, that we might dispense with the taxes? and nothing has yet occurred to remove that impression. If the gentleman feels justified in obeying first impressions in regard to the constitution, the supreme law of the land; he certainly will not condemn me for obeying the same impressions in regard to treasury reports, which are not laws, nor supreme laws, but in many respects mere matters of opinion. The gentleman from Virginia, on the other side of the House, (Mr. Sheffey) likewise complained that the statements offered in support of the proposition were not satisfactory. He said that young politicians might suggest an abolition of taxes, &c. &c. but that those of more experience ought not to sanction such attempts. I admit, sir, that I am a young politician, but while the gentleman from Virginia would condemn me for not being experienced in the virtues of a political life, I trust he will allow me to indulge the consolation of not being very much hackneyed in his vices. I have said, Mr. Speaker, that, on reading the treasury report, I was convinced we might dispense with the internal taxes. He failed in the opinion of some gentlemen to show this when the subject was partially debated the other day, no one can now entertain a doubt of it, since the very able and perspicuous view taken of the subject by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Johnson.) He has proved to you, sir, that from the Secretary's own statement these taxes are not necessary. What better evidence can we want that the statements proceeding from that department? We know that treasury estimates are always too low. If these estimates, curtailed and reduced as they always are, do admit the conclusion that the taxes may be removed, shall we not urge it in the discussion? Surely I think it may be urged as the best expedient which the nature of the case will admit. The government will say, we will keep on the taxes, for we shall not attempt to expiate our estimates of the treasury, if not expressly continued, at least by a continuance of that way. But the Secretary's statements, as they were read by the gentleman, show that the taxes may be removed, and we not then act upon a false estimate, and repeat the same error. I, sir, for one, am willing to assume the responsibility of such a measure. (To be continued.)

ROGER WILSON HAS received from New-York of excellent BEAVER HATS. And will make Gentlemen's best quality, at the shortest notice. Raleigh, May 1.