SHIP CANAL AROUND THE FALLS OF NIAGARA AND THE SAUT STE. MARIE.

RESOLUTION

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MICHIGAN,

RELATIVE

To the construction of a ship canal around the falls of Niagara and the Saut Ste. Marie.

December 31, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION relative to the construction of a ship canal around the falls of Niagara and the Saut Ste. Marie.

Whereas the inability of the Erie canal, in the State of New York, and the harbor at Buffalo, in said State, to furnish the necessary means to do and perform, without great delay, the carrying trade between that point and tide-water; and

Whereas many of our citizens, importing merchandise and other tonnage, and exporting our surplus productions, in order to avoid the great delays which occur on the Erie canal and in re-shipments at Buffalo, have been compelled to ship by way of lake Ontario and the Welland canal, in Canada, thereby paying tribute to a foreign power; and

Whereas the construction of a ship canal by the general government, around the falls of Niagara, uniting the waters of lake Erie and lake Ontario, and the commerce thereof, would greatly advance the agricultural and commercial interests of all the western States and provide additional means for the rapid transit of their vast and constantly increasing surplus production to eastern markets, *via* Ogdensburg and other points; and

Whereas the construction of such canal would, in a military point of view, in the event of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain, materially aid in the concentration of the lake armaments, and give celerity to the movements of forces and munitions of war upon and between the two lakes; and

Whereas A. G. Williams, Captain of U. S. topographical engineers, in obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, and under the direction of the Hon. Lewis Cass, then Secretary of War, did make a report recommending the construction of such canal, accompanied by plain estimates and maps of the proposed route and ex-

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pense of such construction, as will be seen by reference to Executive Documents 1st sess. 24th Cong., 1836, Doc. No. 214; and

Whereas the construction of a ship canal around the falls of Saut Ste. Mary's would greatly advance the agricultural and commercial interests of the western States, by opening a boundless field for the industry and enterprise of the citizens of seven States of this Union, who will have access to, and may be immediately benefited thereby, and which would afford facilities for opening the inexhaustible resources of the mines and minerals upon lake Superior, yielding to the government an increased revenue thereby, and bringing into market for settlement the large quantity of farming lands in that section, as also the immense forests of pines which are becoming of great value, and would extend our ship and steamboat navigation, by adding an extent of over sixteen hundred miles of navigable coast to that of the lower lakes, which would afford a ready market for the valuable fisheries which are inexhaustible upon that lake, and not excelled by the Newfoundland fisheries, the most productive of which in said lake extend a distance of sixty miles; and which country is rapidly settling with a hardy, industrious, and enterprising population; and

Whereas the length of the work contemplated does not exceed three-fourths of a mile, and which could be completed at a cost not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars; and

Whereas the construction of said ship canal is an important national work; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, That our senators in Congress be instructed and our representatives requested to use all honorable means in obtaining appropriations of money by the general government to accomplish the object expressed in the foregoing preamble; and that the governor of this State be requested to forward copies of the foregoing preamble and this resolution to the governors of the several States and to our senators and representatives in Congress.

Approved March 31, 1849.

A true copy:

GEO. W. PECK,
Secretary of State.