

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANAL
COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK. FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1871**

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Annual Report of the Canal Commissioners of the State of New York. For the Fiscal Year Ending
Sept. 30, 1871 by Various

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VARIOUS

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CANAL COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1871.

GEORGE W. CHAPMAN,
WILLIAM W. WRIGHT, } *Canal Commissioners.*
JOHN D. FAY,

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE JANUARY 26, 1872.

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STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 29.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 20, 1872.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE CANAL COMMISSIONERS.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

CANAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, }
ALBANY, December 30, 1871. }

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York :

The undersigned herewith transmit their respective reports as Canal Commissioners, for the fiscal year ending the 30th day of September, 1871.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM W. WRIGHT,
JOHN D. FAY,
GEORGE W. CHAPMAN,

Canal Commissioners.

ANNUAL REPORT.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

CANAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
ALBANY, December 30th, 1871. }

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York:

The Canal Commissioners, in charge of the canals of this State, respectfully submit their

ANNUAL REPORT

for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1871:

The Board of Canal Commissioners, on the 1st day of January, 1871, consisted of John D. Fay, William W. Wright and George W. Chapman.

It was organized by the election of William W. Wright, President, and George W. Chapman, Secretary.

To George W. Chapman was assigned, in special charge, the Eastern Division of the canals, which is made up as follows:

| ERIE CANAL, EASTERN DIVISION. | | Miles. | Miles. |
|--|--------|--------|---------------|
| Albany to east bank of Oneida Lake canal..... | 133.58 | | |
| Albany basin (1 mile for tolls, Laws of 1849)..... | .77 | | |
| Port Schuyler and West Troy side cuts..... | .35 | | |
| | | | 134.70 |
| Champlain canal and Waterford side cut..... | 66.00 | | |
| Pond above Troy dam..... | 3.00 | | |
| Glen's Falls feeder and pond above..... | 12.00 | | |
| | | | 81.00 |
| Black River canal..... | 35.33 | | |
| Black River feeder and pond above dam..... | 12.09 | | |
| Delta feeder..... | 1.38 | | |
| Black River improvement..... | 42.50 | | |
| | | | 91.30 |
| Total..... | | | <u>307.00</u> |

To William W. Wright was assigned, in special charge, the Middle Division of the canals, which embraces the following:

| | Miles. |
|---|------------------|
| Erie canal, from the East bank of the Oneida Lake canal to the county line between Seneca and Wayne counties, including the several feeders and reservoirs..... | 76 |
| Chenango canal, feeders and reservoirs..... | 97 |
| Chenango Canal extension, now under contract for construction, | 30 |
| Oswego canal..... | 38 |
| Oneida Lake canal..... | 7 |
| Oneida River improvement..... | 20 |
| Seneca River towing-path..... | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Cayuga and Seneca canal..... | 23 |
| Cayuga inlet..... | 2 |
| Crooked Lake canal..... | 8 |
| Chemung canal..... | 23 |
| Chemung Canal feeder..... | 16 |
| Seneca River improvement..... | 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Total..... | <u>358</u> |

To John D. Fay was assigned, in special charge, the Western Division of canals.

The canals embraced in this division are as follows:

| | Miles. |
|---|------------|
| Erie canal, from the east line of Wayne county to Buffalo, including works connected therewith..... | 149 |
| Genesee Valley canal from Rochester to Olean..... | 107 |
| Extension of said canal from Olean to Millgrove..... | 6 |
| Dansville branch, from Shakers to Dansville..... | 11 |
| Total..... | <u>273</u> |

Summary.

| | Miles. |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Eastern Division..... | 307.00 |
| Middle Division..... | 358.00 |
| Western Division..... | 273.00 |
| Total..... | <u>938.00</u> |

The Champlain canal was opened on the 17th, and the other canals of the State on the 24th day of April, 1871, and were closed by ice on the 1st day of December.

Under previous appointment, Nathan Ackley has continued to act as clerk of the Board of Canal Commissioners during the fiscal year.

GEORGE W. CHAPMAN,
WILLIAM W. WRIGHT,
JOHN D. FAY,

Canal Commissioners.



EASTERN DIVISION.

REPORT OF GEORGE W. CHAPMAN, CANAL COMMISSIONER.

The Commissioner in charge of the Eastern Division of the New York State canals respectfully presents his annual report for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of September, 1871.

The Eastern Division comprises that portion of the Erie canal extending from the south end of the Albany basin to the east bank of the Oneida Lake canal at Higginsville, nine miles west of Rome, including also the Champlain canal, extending from Troy to Whitehall and the Black River canal and improvement, extending from Rome to Carthage, together with all feeders, dams, side cuts and reservoirs connected therewith, its aggregate length being three hundred and seven miles. This division is divided into eleven superintendent or repair sections; the Erie canal into five, and the Champlain and Black River canals each into three.

The following named superintendents of repairs were placed in charge of these sections by appointment of the Canal Board, February 1st, 1871:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Section One, Erie canal..... | William J. Wheeler. |
| Section Two, Erie canal..... | Benj'n. Van Vranken. |
| Section Three, Erie canal..... | Daniel S. Read. |
| Section Four, Erie canal..... | Daniel M. Golden. |
| Section Five, Erie canal..... | Charles Graham. |
| Section One, Champlain canal..... | George W. Neilson. |
| Section Two, Champlain canal..... | George Satterlee. |
| Section Three, Champlain canal..... | George Northup. |
| Section One, Black River canal..... | John Cole. |
| Section Two, Black River canal..... | R. Sanford Miller. |
| Section Three, Black River canal..... | Frank B. Johnson. |

By appointment of the Board of Canal Commissioners, George L. Ames has acted as division agent, or general superintendent, during the fiscal year.

The engineering department of this division has been under the charge of E. H. Crocker, division engineer, Peter Hogan, resident engineer, Wm. B. Cooper, S. E. Babcock and G. M. Barnes, assistant engineers.

To each and every one of the officers above named, great credit is due for their faithful and efficient discharge of their duties, in the repairing and improvements of the canals, and the maintenance of good navigation during the seasons of 1870 and 1871.

Upon ten of the eleven sections of the Eastern Division the ordinary repairs and management have been under the charge of the superintendents during the whole of the fiscal year. Section one, Erie canal, has been under contract for repairs which expires January 1st, 1872.

The following is a detailed statement of the objects and amounts of all expenditures on the Eastern Division for the different sections during the fiscal year, from September 30th, 1870 to September 30th, 1871, showing all the amounts which have been paid or certified to be due, which are classified as follows:

- I. For ordinary repairs, payable from the revenues of the canal.
 1. By superintendent of repairs.
 2. By drafts on Auditor.
 3. By Canal Commissioner from miscellaneous account.
 4. By certificates, on estimates due, or on awards of Canal Board.
- II. For extraordinary repairs, for which appropriations are made by law, and for which taxes are levied.
 1. By drafts on Auditor.
 2. By Commissioner from miscellaneous accounts.
 3. By certificates on estimates due, or awards of Canal Board.
- III. For awards and expenses of awards before the Canal Appraisers.
 1. By draft on Auditor.
 2. By certificate.
 3. By Commissioners for expenses of trials and awards from miscellaneous account.

Together with statements of the condition of the canals, and works and improvements connected therewith, the improvements and repairs made during the past fiscal year or contemplated to be made, and recommendations of such measures in relation to the canals as he shall deem the public interest to require.

ERIE CANAL.

SECTION No. 1.

WILLIAM J. WHEELER, *Superintendent.*

This section still remains under contract for repairs, made with William C. Stephens (assigned to Thomas Gale) for five years from January 1, 1867, and extends from the south end of Albany basin to the west end of the lower Mohawk aqueduct, including the West Troy and Port Schuyler side-cuts; the Champlain canal, from the junction to a point 200 feet north of the guard lock at Cohoes, on the south side of the Mohawk river; the Troy dam, the sloop lock and the pond above, making nineteen miles.

The structures upon this section are:

Forty-three locks; 182 lock gates; two weigh-locks; two collectors' and weigh-offices; one aqueduct (lower Mohawk); six waste-weirs; sixteen culverts; fourteen farm bridges (wood); six road bridges (wood); eighteen road bridges (iron); three tow-path bridges (iron); two tow-path bridges (wood); two foot bridges (wood); eight lock houses; eighteen watch houses; one workshop at Cohoes; two timber sheds; one dwelling-house at State yard, Cohoes.

The following is a statement of work done as ordinary repairs by repair contractors: The locks were generally repaired in the spring, and put in order for navigation.

There has been thirty-four new lock gates built, of which twenty gates have been put in the following locks:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Lock number 3..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 4..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 5..... | Three gates. |
| Lock number 9..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 10..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 11..... | Three gates. |
| Lock number 12..... | One gate. |
| Lock number 13..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 14..... | Two gates. |
| Lock number 15..... | One gate. |

Many of the old gates have been repaired by putting in new heel or toe posts, new arms, new balance beams, and fender planks.

All the bridges on the section have been painted except three covered bridges on the Erie and two old wood bridges on the Champlain canals, the iron bridges with a black composition paint, and the wood bridges with white lead and linseed oil.