

"Welland Canal Money," *St Catharines Journal* (August 4, 1836), p.3.

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Researched by Zhenhao Xia

| THE JOURNAL. | | |
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| ST. CATHARINES, AUG. 4, 1836. | | |
| WELLAND CANAL MONEY. | | |
| It having been stated and become generally known, that the Board of Directors of the Welland Canal Co. had determined upon issuing their own Notes, (in the style of Bank bills,) payable one year after date, with interest, for the purpose of settling all claims against them, and meeting the demands constantly accruing for repairs—a respectable number of inhabitants of this village and vicinity, assembled at the St. Catharines House, on Thursday evening the 4th inst., to take the matter into consideration. The meeting was organized by calling GEO. RYKERT, Esq. M. P. P. to the Chair, and appointing WM. C. CHACE, Merchant, Secretary. | | |
| After the Chairman had explained, in an interesting and energetick speech of some length, the object for which they had met, and expressed his views of the propriety and necessity of the proposed measure of the Company, to relieve themselves from their present difficulties, and several other gentlemen had given their sentiments on the subject, the following Preamble and Resolution were unanimously adopted, and signed by every Merchant, Tradesman, Mechanick, and man of business present, with a single exception, [a farmer,] and subsequently by all others in this vicinity, who have as yet had an opportunity of doing so. | | |
| Moved by JOHN L. BURNS, Merchant, seconded by H. M'NIVE, Importer, &c.: | | |
| WHEREAS, it having been intimated to this meeting, that the Directors of the Welland Canal Company had, at their monthly meeting held this day, decided on issuing the Notes of that Company, payable in one year from this date, in order to make the necessary repairs to keep open the navigation this year—to provide the materials this fall, to place the canal in a perfect state of repair, to enable them to open the communication early in the ensuing spring—and to pay off the various claims and demands against the said Company, some of which are of many years standing—therefore, | | |
| <i>Resolved</i> , That we, the undersigned Merchants, Farmers, Mechanicks and other men of business in St. Catharines and vicinity, highly approve of the measure adopted by the Board of Directors, and pledge ourselves to take the Notes at par, in our ordinary business transactions; and as we entertain no doubt that they will be punctually redeemed when due, we recommend them to be freely and promptly taken by all other persons whatever. | | |
| Welland Canal Marine List. Official List of Vessels and Boats passing the Welland canal—furnished by GEO. SMITH, Esq. Collector Port Dalhousie. | | |
| INWARDS. | | |
| July | | Tonnage. |
| 25 | schr. Hudson, | Oswego to Cleveland. 126 |
| | Eagle, | do. to St. Catharines. 42 |
| | Saratoga, | do. to Chicago. 126 |
| 26 | Detroit, | do. to do. 100 |
| | Jno. Watkins, | Brockville to P. Burwell. 79 |
| | Albany, | Oswego to Cleveland. 107 |
| 28 | O. S. Starkey, | do. to Sandusky. 91 |
| 29 | Industry, | F. Creek to Thorold. 49 |
| OUTWARDS. | | |
| 23 | W. H. Merritt, | St. Cath. to Prescott. 100 |
| 25 | L. Wash'ton, | Cleveland to Oswego. 61 |
| | Orleans, | do. to do. 107 |
| | Alabama, | do. to do. 92 |
| 26 | Aurora Borealis, | do. to do. 94 |
| | Congress, | do. to do. 105 |
| | J. D. Beaupree, | do. to do. 119 |
| | W. J. Pardee, | do. to do. 65 |
| | Essex, | Ontario to C. Vincent. 100 |
| | Utica, | do. to do. 103 |
| | Whig, | do. to do. 99 |
| | Hannah, | Antoine to F. Creek. 86 |
| 27 | Independence, | Sandusky to Oswego. 70 |
| | Richmond, | Fairport to do. 96 |
| | M. Van Buren, | Cleveland do. 83 |
| | New-York, | do. Prescott. 72 |
| 28 | John E. Hunt, | Brownville to C. Vincent. 135 |
| 29 | Baltimore, | Cleveland to Oswego, 120 |
| RECAPITULATION. | | |
| Total amount of transit up the Welland Canal, during the month of July, 1836. | | |
| 28 vessels over 50 tons, | | |
| 8 do. under do. | | |
| 5 boats, do. do. | | |
| Carrying 9,028 barrels Salt. | | |
| do. 766 tons, 5 cwt. Merchandise through the canal. | | |
| do. 7 " 5 " do. to St Catharines. | | |
| do. 53 " 5 " Plaster, Water Lime, and other miscellaneous articles of Produce. | | |
| The Niagara Dock Company are, we understand, issuing their own notes, payable on demand. We see no good reason for the fears we have heard expressed in some quarters: the Dock Company is, we believe, thoroughly substantial, and has unquestionably done much good to the town, in many respects: and although we decidedly object to any publick Company assuming functions, foreign to those legitimate ones contemplated by its establishment, in as much as such an act proves weakness or speculation, we cannot, in the present scan- | | |

This newspaper clipping from *The St. Catharines Journal* (August 4, 1836) provides a fascinating glimpse into the commercial and cultural landscape of 19th-century Ontario. It provides both textual announcements and tabular data related to the Welland Canal. The material, typical of periodical publications of the era, is printed on aged newsprint, showcasing clear serif typography and a columnar layout characteristic of early Canadian newspapers.

The primary subject is the introduction of canal company-issued notes, an innovative solution to financial pressures faced by the Welland Canal Company. These notes were necessary for settling debts and maintaining canal infrastructure, reflecting a creative approach to local currency in response to economic challenges. Alongside, the clipping lists a detailed "Marine List," documenting vessels traversing the canal and their transported goods, highlighting the canal's critical role in regional trade.

This document exemplifies the intertwined nature of infrastructure development, local economy, and media in 19th-century Canada. The Welland Canal, connecting Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, was a vital artery for commerce that shaped the area's industrial and cultural growth. This artifact contextualizes the broader history of 19th-century visual and material culture while connecting local developments to global trends in commerce and transportation.

Further Reading:

Burtniak, John. *Welland Canal: Gateway to the Great Lakes*. St. Catharines: Vanwell Publishing, 1994.