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RESUME OF THE WORK

The Origin of the Scheme and the Sale to Stewart & Co.—The Letting of the Contracts and the Beginning and Progress of the Work.—A Resume of the Undertaking up to the Present Time, with Map of Route and Illustration of Power House.

On account of the large addition to the subscription list of the OBSERVER during the past few weeks, we have decided to give a brief resume of the work now in progress on the canal, for the benefit of those who have not been privileged to read our articles for the past eight months. At the earnest solicitation of many of our readers we also reproduce the picture of the gigantic power house which is to be erected at the mouth of the canal on the Grasse river one mile east of the village, also the route of the canal.

The stupendous project was first conceived in the mind of Henry H. Warren, of Massena. The original company consisted of Mr. Warren, Michael H. Flaherty, Charles A. Kellogg, Charles R. Higgins and Albon Man. A valuable franchise was secured by an act of the legislature of 1896.

Capital was interested and the original projectors sold out their entire interest it was reported for \$50,000. The present St. Lawrence Power Company was then formed with a capital of \$6,000,000, which is held in nearly equal parts by Stewart & Co., of 40 Wall street, New York, and an English syndicate. The officers of the company are William C. Lane, president; S. H. Garlyne Stewart, vice president; Carlton H. Reeve, secretary; William C. Cox, treasurer. The company's representatives in New York are Seward, Guthrie & Steele; in London, Matheson & Co. John Bogart, ex-State Engineer and Surveyor, of New York, is the chief engineer, assisted by Messrs. Kincaid, Waller & Manville, of London.

The surveys being completed and the country insured a strong financial policy by the election of William McKinley, the next step was the letting of the contracts for the excavations. But few have any idea of the extent of the work necessary in making these excavations. The length of the canal is three and one fourth miles, the depth to be 25 feet, below the water line, width on the bottom 187 feet with sloping sides making the width at water line 262 feet. Seventeen steam shovels, numberless graders, scrapers, shovels, wheelbarrows and dagoes are to be employed when the work is in full progress.

Contracts for the work were then closed with the following parties: For excavation of canal, building of power house, intake and outlet construction, with the Lehigh Construction Company, Limited, of South Bethlehem, Pa.; for fifteen 5,000-horse power turbines with the Stillwell-Bierce & Smith-Vaile Company. The freight depot being located two miles from the mouth of the canal it was necessary to haul the immense amount of machinery over this distance and hundreds of teams have been kept busy at this work. By August 11 a sufficient amount had been placed in position and on that day nearly 3,000 people were on the site of Dayton, Ohio. The contract for fifteen 5,000-horse power electric generators was awarded to the Westinghouse Electric Company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the supplies they will furnish will cost \$1,000,000.

With appropriate ceremony the first earth was thrown into the dump cars by Messrs. Warren and Man, assisted by Helen, daughter of H. O. Duerr, general manager of the Lehigh Construction Company, after which the steam shovel was started. Since then three more shovels have been placed in position at various points on the route of the canal and are now working, with as many more nearly ready for operation.

The work of excavating to within five feet of water level is let to four sub-contractors. Messrs. Mandeville, Barry & Dunlevy begin at the St. Lawrence and have the north section of the river ridge. The south section of this ridge is in charge of Dick Bros. The work on the Andrews ridge and also the power house site is being done by John W. Crellin. James Corbett, in connection with the Lehigh Construction Company, is to do the work on the two flats each side of the Andrews ridge.

Midway on the line of the canal, the company has built for the accom-

modation of the men and teams a small village which has taken the name of the "white city." This name seems to be a pertinent one as the buildings are all unpainted and will be torn down when the work is done. These buildings are heated by steam and the line is lighted by electricity. Three gangs of laborers will be employed and the work will go on without ceasing both day and night. The

while here the turbines will be placed on an inclined plane and driven by horizontal flow, the portion of the shaft below the wheel being a revolving ring of steel which looks like a fly wheel. The central revolving portion will not, however, be an armature as in other dynamos, but will carry the field magnets, revolving ring with its magnets, an extreme diameter of 15 feet and a width of 3 feet. The office of the Lehigh Construction Company is now located at "Camp Bogart," the "white city," and everything is running in perfect order. The work is thoroughly systematic and no person ventures any information

that is not in his direct line. Thousands of visitors inspect the work each week, and to the many aimless questions quite trite answers are sometimes given.

The question which everyone asks is "What is to be done with the power? Water power is running to waste all over the United States, and why be to the great expense of digging this canal?" Months before the franchise was purchased from the original promoters, geological experts were in town examining the rock. They learned that a valuable limestone formation underlies this whole section and that it outcrops at several points along the Racket and

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THE BRASHER MYSTERY

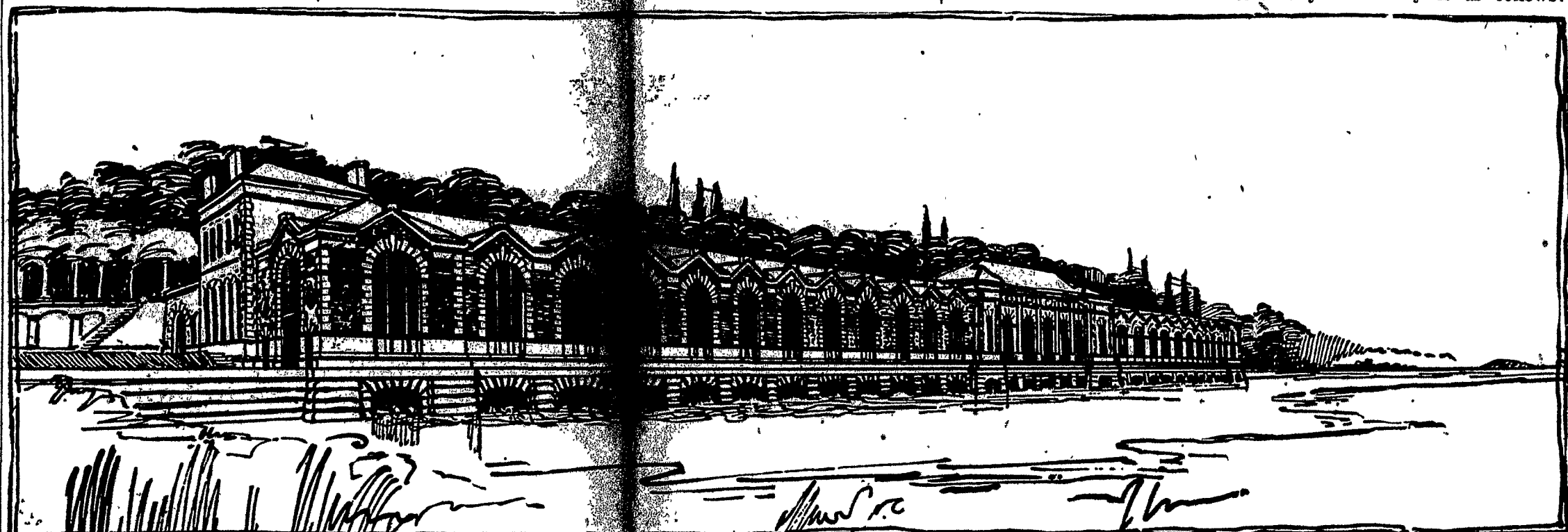
Mrs. Pardon Bell is Found Dead in a Neighbor's Orchard--The Body in a Terrible State of Decomposition--Been Dead Four Days--The Neighbors Excited--Was There a Murder?--The Coroner Investigating the Matter.

At about 11 o'clock last Thursday night the dead and badly decomposed body of Mrs. Pardon Bell was found in the corner of Joseph Gray's orchard on Brasher Ridge. How she came there in the condition in which she was found is a mystery not yet solved.

Mrs. Bell lived with her husband on the Ridge, and their house is the next one to the west of that of

Joseph Gray. Mr. Bell's family consisted of himself and wife, a weak-minded sister of his, a boy 14, a little girl 9, and there was at home on Monday a boy Winfred aged about 20, who is a deaf mute and who has been attending the deaf mute Institute at Malone, but was home on a vacation.

The story of the disappearance as told by the family is as follows:

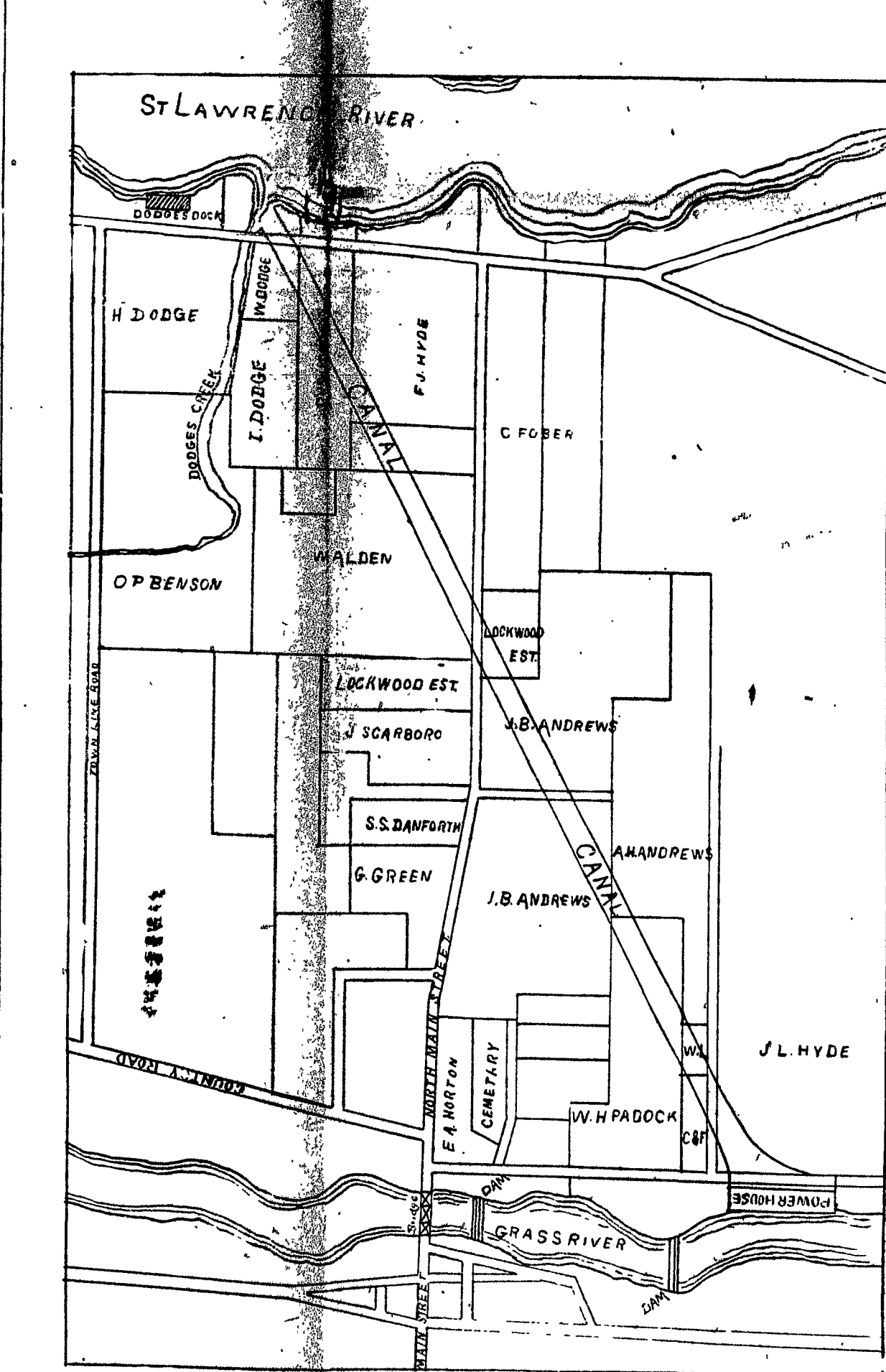


The Proposed Power House to be Built by the St. Lawrence Power Co

report has been circulated that work would be suspended during the winter months. No such thoughts have entered the minds of the contractors as Jack Frost would have to bustle to get ahead of the steam shovels and graders. A railroad is in process of construction the entire length of the canal, while a complete system of waterworks is in operation.

Very good digging is found in the ground at the power house site and two steam shovels are plowing great holes in the yellow sand bank which rises sixty feet above the waters of the Grasse. Across the highway nearly one hundred teams are at work, with two wheel scrapers, and immense banks of earth are being piled up on either side of the canal. Two graders, with eight mules in front and four behind, take off the surface dirt to a depth of fifteen inches. These machines are curious indeed. The earth is taken up in the same manner as by a common plow, made to turn an obtuse angle and carrier over an endless belt to a height sufficient to dump it into a wagon of ordinary height. One grader keeps a dozen or more teams busy. In this manner the excavations are to be made to within five feet of the water level when the regular work of the steam shovels is to begin. Long cantilever cranes are to be worked in connection with the shovels to transfer the dirt up and over the banks. These cranes are now being placed in position on the power house site. The soil along the entire route of the canal is an alluvial formation and no difficulty will be experienced by rocks or ledges. Strata of clay have already been found in the sand near the Grasse river and if this is discovered in sufficient quantities it will be utilized in making brick. Some little difficulty has been experienced by one of the shovels in encountering quicksand, but otherwise everything is running in the smoothest possible style.

The power house is to be 535 feet long by 115 wide and will be the largest structure of the kind in the world. It will rest upon the solid rock foundation which is found on a level with the bottom of the Grasse river, and will inclose the turbines and electric generators. The structure will rise to a height of 50 feet above the Grasse river and will have a crane traversing its whole length with a lifting capacity of 85 tons. Each generator will weigh 350,000 pounds and have 180 revolutions per minute and develop 5,000 horse power. The volume of water being greater and the fall less than at Niagara the arrangement of turbines and generators will be different. At Niagara a vertical shaft, 140 feet, is in use



Map Showing Canal Route and Lands Crossed.

The canal takes a south-easterly course from the mouth of Dodge's creek to the Grasse river one mile below Massena village. The canal will be a little over three miles long, will be 262 1/2 feet wide at water level and the sides will slope so that it will be 187 feet wide on the bottom at a depth of 25 feet below the water line. There is a slight curve in the line so as to make the cut at nearly right angles to the Andrews ridge, then it resumes the straight line again. The curve is not shown here.

Monday morning at seven o'clock Mr. Bell went to Brasher Falls to see about hiring a school teacher, leaving the rest of the family at home. Mrs. Bell sent the younger boy and the little girl up to Mrs. Hilliard's, the next neighbor on the west, to get a pair of apples. The deaf boy went down the road in the direction opposite to that taken by the younger children. This left the two women at home. It is said that Mrs. Bell grew impatient waiting for the children to return with the apples, so taking a pail she started toward Joseph Gray's orchard, down the road from the house. It seems that it was necessary in doing this for her to get over a stone wall, near the line fence between the Gray and Bell farms, and this stone wall makes a right angle with another wall running up to the road. It was in the angle of these walls on Gray's side that the body was found.

Mr. Bell says he came home from Brasher Falls and found his wife gone, and inquiry as to her whereabouts elicited no information other than she went after apples and had not come back. He thought very little of this as she had been in the habit of going away for days at a time and not saying where she was going. The family relations were not as pleasant as they ought to have been, and the neighbors tell of pitched battles between the husband and wife. One thing about this disappearance differing from former was the fact that she had always before taken the little girl with her, but this time she left her at home. The other children except the little girl were step-children, she being Bell's second wife.

Nothing was done until Thursday, when her brothers and the neighbors became suspicious and a search was instituted. Parties went to the different relatives about but none of them had seen her. Then a search of the premises began. This was Thursday evening. While Bell and Prosper Compo, her brother, were passing along the road toward Joseph Gray's near midnight they smelled a terrible odor, and following it up, just over the stone wall as before mentioned they came upon her mangled and putrid body.

The body was lying about two feet from the stone wall running along the road and six feet from the wall running at right-angles to the road. It was lying on the back, and the head turned toward the wall and wedged in between two stones, a stone weighing over fifty pounds lying on her left breast, another resting against her shoulder and other smaller stones scattered near. The wall had the appearance of hav-

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