

Part of section No. 7 is also embankment, and in good order; near the west end of this section a heavy mound of earth or dam is thrown over the former channel and valley of Broad creek, down which, the canal, from near the summit to this point, takes its course. On this section, sluices and a waste weir will furnish the means of carrying off the surplus water from the summit level. At the western end of the section, a lock of six feet lift communicates with a basin about 150 feet in width, and 500 feet in length; which by another lock, communicates with Back creek, a branch of Elk river, and terminates the canal.

The channel of this creek being narrow and circuitous, and that part of it near the locks so circumscribed, as to prevent that turning of steam-boats without inconvenience and delay, the Board, with others interested in its navigation, applied to the general government for an appropriation of funds to enlarge and improve its channel. A bill has passed both houses of congress, in which 40,000 dollars are appropriated for that purpose, which only requires the signature of the President to carry into effect this very desirable object.

Since the last Annual Report, the attention of the Board has been principally directed to section No. 5, or the deep cut; the finishing of which was found to be a work of increasing difficulty, as the excavation approached nearer to the bottom of the canal; and a sliding into the canal of a portion of the bank in the deepest part of the excavation of this section, was a cause of expense and delay not anticipated.— During the past year, measures believed to be effectual, have been adopted to secure the sides of the canal, the towing-path, and embankments, as well as the locks, sluices, and bridges; and every preparation has been made for placing a large waste weir on the upper level; all which have been considered as contributing to the safety of the work, and as the means of preventing the necessity of future expenditures in keeping it in good order.

Since the canal has been in operation, there has been a large surplus of water, which it has been found necessary constantly to discharge. The supply of water on the summit, is a subject to which the Board have given that care and attention its importance demanded; and for the purpose of additional security on this head, have purchased; some time since, Lum's, and Jone's mills; the dams of both which are above the summit level, and form extensive reservoirs, which