

**DOCUMENT 29 – LETTER FROM SYDNEY S. DURFEE TO EDWARD B. TALCOTT
CONCERNING A SCOW SCRAPER**

June 11, 1848

TRANSCRIPTION

Mr. Talcot Esq^d Chicago June 11. 1848

Chief Engineer Dear Sir

M & I Canal At the suggestion of Mr.

Scovell I take the liberty of sending you a plan
for a scow scraper for taking out bars in Canal

A scow, say 50 feet long and 14 ft. wide, sides
about 2 feet high decked about 18 inches above bottom
with a recess 4 feet wide & say 20 feet long in the
middle to admit a scraper suitable for taking up
Earth, the handles of the scraper to be made fast
at one End of recess and a windlas over the other
End with chains attached to the scraper allowing
it to drop down through the recess to the required
depth, and to raise the scraper to the deck when fill
-ed with Earth, a Pully on the forward End of the
scow where a rope passes through that has one End
made fast on the bank and a yoke of oxen on the
Towing path to the other End, to moove the scow forward,
to fill the scraper, some stakes attached to the sides of the
scow will hold it fast while the windlas raises the scraper
& the Earth shoved off onto the deck & the scraper, dropped
down again. when the scow is ready to move ahead again
The above is the principle & out line description a
machine that has been used on the Erie Canal with
good results —the scow is usefull as a Canal repair
-er without the scraper, & is cheap to build.

I have had some Experience on the Erie Canal and
offer my services to you.

Your Obt. Servt. S.S. Durfee

I am at Packel boal office Daily --