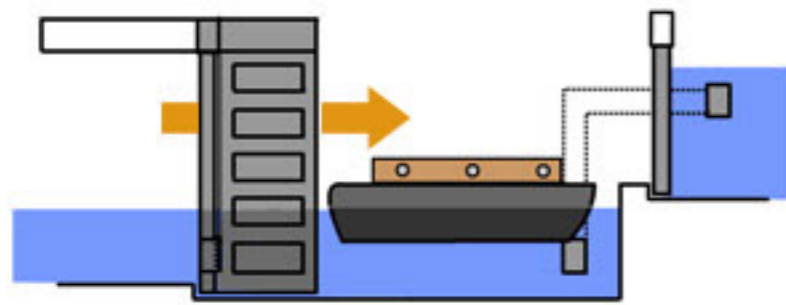


'Lock keepers were the people who looked after the locks and made sure that the boats got through safely. The Lagan Navigation Company, who owned the canal, employed them and they were given houses to live in beside the locks as part of the job. This is how a lock works. The boat is pulled along by a horse walking along the towpath with the hauler.

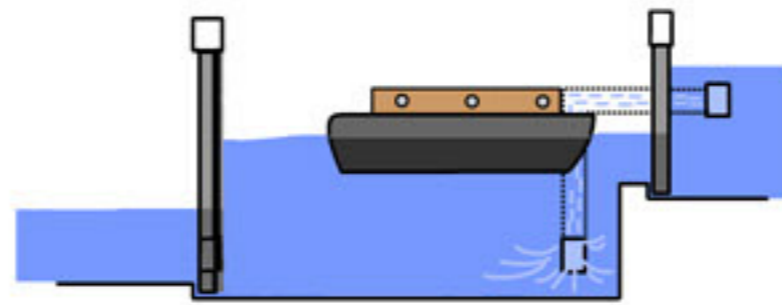
As the hauler approaches the lock he shouts to the lock keeper and unhitches the horse...



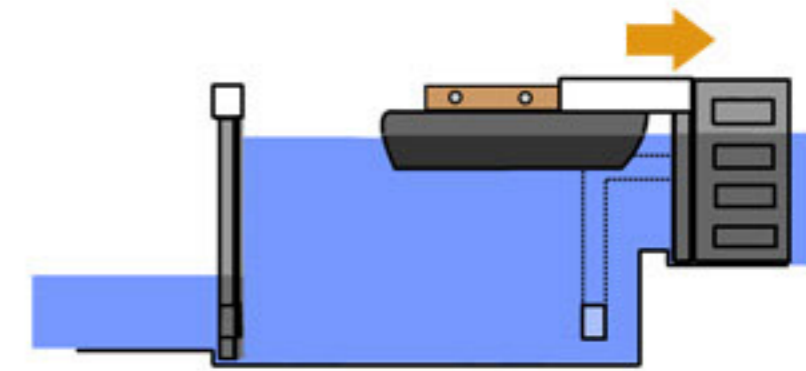
These are hurricane lamps and are similar to the ones that George Kilpatrick would have used to light his way up to the weir if he needed to go at night.



1 The boat passes through the lower lock gates and into what is called the "lock chamber" and the lower gates are closed tight.



2 The sluice gate or "paddle" on the upper lock gates is raised by winding it up. The sluice gate is at the bottom of the gate which means that the water comes through slowly and the lock starts to fill up with the water coming in underneath the lighter.



3 When the water in the lock chamber is at the same level as the water at the top level the upper lock gates are opened and the boat can pass on its way.



George Kilpatrick on the lock gate at Lock No 3

In the photograph George Kilpatrick is standing on the lock gate. What do you think he is doing?

.....

Look at the kind of clothes he is wearing. Do you think there is a reason for him dressing that way?

.....

Jean McDonnell's grandparents outside their house at Lock No 2. Her grandfather, Robert McCurley, was the lock keeper.

"My grandparents lived in the second lock house, their names were Robert and Elizabeth McCurley and they had two girls and two boys. He opened and closed the locks. The cottage was big and roomy, there was one enormous big room downstairs and two or three rooms upstairs. There was also a little place, an outhouse that was kept as a wash house. They had the land at the house as a garden and granny had a vegetable garden and fruit, lovely gooseberries. She kept chickens as well. They weren't very rich but my grandmother baked and made her own jam and did everything.

worked there before my grandfather and that's why it was called Taylor's Lock." My grandfather opened the locks which were a good bit down from the cottage and he had a little hut down beside the lock. That was where he went for a sleep! He sat and watched for the barges coming up. After they left, around the early 1940s, the man Rowan looked after the locks but I don't think anyone lived in the lock house. My grandfather's uncle Taylor worked there before my grandfather and that's why it was called Taylor's Lock."



Using the information above, create a daily menu of all the meals the McCurley's would have had in a day.

