

1894, the maximum duration of fogs for five open months:—

July	309 hours.
August	262 hours.
September	110 hours.
October	215 hours.
November	105 hours.

The above statement shews that during the months when ice is most prevalent in the Straits the greatest number of fogs prevail.

Commodore Curtis, after years of observation and experience in Belle Isle, gives it as his opinion that fogs prevail there about one-third of the time during navigation.

Those obstacles have a detrimental effect on the Canadian mail service. They cause long delays, as will be seen by data from the Post Office Department, Ottawa. The following is the average time occupied by the "Parisian" between Liverpool and Rimouski:

Years.	No. Trips.	Average time, hours.	Quickest trips, hours.
1895	6	210.2	194
1896	5	198.14	183
1897	4	217.48	188

This table shews a difference in averages on this route of nineteen hours and thirty-four minutes; and between the quickest passage and the slowest, average of thirty-four hours and forty-eight minutes. But the following statement of the quickest and slowest passages from the same authority, is a better index of the delays that the route is subject to. ✓

The S. S. "Parisian's" passages between Liverpool and Rimouski:—

Year.	Fastest Trips, hours.	Slowest Trips, hours.
1895	194.25	220
1896	183.35	210
1897	188	286

In the above will be found a delay of ninety-eight hours between the fastest and slowest trips of 1897; and a difference of one hundred and three hours and twenty-five minutes between the quickest trips in 1896 and the slowest in 1897. This is too much time to lose—more than enough to cross the Atlantic from an Atlantic port of call by the southern route.