

Launoh of the "Empress of Japan."
The "Empress of Japan" the second of the three steel twin-screv steamers buit for the Canadis: $i$ vecific Railway Company, was Iaunched on Saiurday last from the yard of the Naral Construction and Armaments Company at Barrow-in-Furnes: The third is at present in courso of construction. These vessels are, as our readers know, intended to sail from Van. couver to lokohama, and will cover the distance in considerably less time thau it is done at present. The "Empress of Japan" is 485 ft . long over all, 440 ft . between perpendiculars, breadth moulded 51 ft ., depth moulded 36 ft ., tonnage,,- 700 tons gross. The engines will indicate about 10,000 horse-power. She, like her sister ships, has been built to Admiralty requirements as a cruiser, and can be armed and made ready for duty in a few hours, her guns being stored in readiness at Vancouver and Hong Kong. Hor armaments will consist of the largest type of $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{in}$. guns.

Lord Hartington, at a subsequent lunch, pro. posed "Success to the "Eapuress of Japan," which, he said, was the second of three ships which the Naval Construction and Armaments Company was building for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and which, when completed, were destined to run from Vancouver to Japan und China. The Barrow company was, he said, proud that Lady Allice Stanley had performed the ceremnny of launching this ship, because not only was Lord Stanley of Preston, her father-in-law, connected with this district, but was at the present time sill more intimately connected with Canada; and although he (Lord Hartington) had once suffered a severe defeat at his hands, his lordship was now Governor. General of a Domivion which was largely interested in these vessels. He harl only one other observation to make, and that was that, although these ships would form the connecting. lin's beiween Canada and Japan and China, the Canadian route would not the so complete and periect as it was capable of being made until communication was established by a first-class line of vessels between Englaud and Canada direct. He trusted through the agency of the Naval Construction and Armaments Company, and by the active exertions of their managing dicecsor, Mr. Bryce-Douglas, who had_recently
been to Canada on this very important matter, that in short time $e$ new enterprise would be lounched, which would open up direct communicatiou with British ports and Canadian Atlantic ports, an thence by means of the Canadian Yucific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway, open up steam communication not only with China and Japan but with the Australasian Colonies. Circumstances connected with the State business of this country might perhaps somewhat delay the inception of this enterprise, but he had not the slightest doubt that, sooner or later, the enterprise would bo completed, and that the Barrow Company would play a very considerable part in establish. ing this very valuable communication. He gave the toast of the "İmpress of Japan. 'Canadian Gaselit, Londion, England, Dec. 8.

## Furs in London.

The London, Eugland, correspondent of the New York Fur Trode Review writes as follows to that journal:-The season 1890 has just drawn to a closo, and taken all round has been a very fair year for the fur trade generally. At the beginuing of the season the outlook was not at all promising, but as soon as trade began to move it was seen that a very large business would be done in Persians, and this article has done remarkably well throughout, and as it is an article that runs into mouey it has helped the fur trade very considerably, and then on top of this the "boom" in fur seals has enabled some of the old established merchants in this city to clear out stocks that have been accumulatiog for years past, for it is well known that during the last month or six weeks that anything in the shape of a fur seal zould bo sold almost blindfulded, and we are of the opinion that buth these articles will sell well the coming season.

The article that has solil for the million has been Moufllon. Very large quantities have changed hands, but the profits have been elosely cut, in many instances like giving 100 cents for a dollar. A nother urticle that has done exceed. ingly fwell is Australian opossum, some hundreds of thousands of which have been cut into narrow edgings for the trimmings of cloaks and jackets. This style of trinmiugs has come about in this way. Squirrel lock and beck

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linings having been so high in price the manufacturers have ceased to use them to a large ex. tent and in their place have used a guilted lining with just this narrow edging of opossum all round the garment. Our opinion of this article is that it will have a good run next season.
Giey hrimmer. This article has been in fair demand, but exclusively for the West Ead trade.
Bears. Ihis article has sold very well in trimmings, but boas have been at a discount, this has come about by a great rage for the Medici collar, in fact scarcely any garment for a lady will sell here without one of these collars. Skunk has also done very well and we believe will do botter still next season.
Nutria has been sold very freely, especially the German lustred skins-our friends on the Continent having greatly improved the appearance of this article indeed it runs the London silvering very hard and wo belivo will knock it out entirely next yent.

The farmer's Ailiocare, published at London, Out., and Winnipeg, sends out with its Christmas number a handsome portrait of Hon. John Carling, Duminion Minister of Agriculture.
The Quebec provincial government has granted this year a bonus of bifty cents per ton on beets delivered to manufacturers, and a specia! commission has been authorized to study the question of sugar beet cultare to go to Europe, the United States aud Ontario and report at the next session of the legislature.
The Nipissing \& James Bay railway company has purchased the right of Wiay from Lanase, which is the northern terminus of the Nipissing railway, to a point in the inmediate vicinity of North Bay, and put it in readiness for con. struction of the road. The Ontario government has granted the company a homas of $\$ 3,000$ per mile for the first fify miles which will take tho road to Lake Samogeaming. Eighty miles will be the length of the firs: section, extending from North Bay to Lake Semiscamique. Application will be made_to the Domiuton Parliunent at the next session for the ustial bonds and if secured the directors intend to commence construction at once.

