

Where the "Indian" is now loading there is 31 feet of water at low tide, and the captain says that they will load her to 30 ft draught at stern and 28 ft draught at bow. About 13,000 tons of cargo.

The Indian was built at Belfast, Ireland, last year (1900) and the Mexican was built at Barrow in Furness, England, about 1892. The Mexican costs £55,000 and the Indian £99,000.

The horsepower of the Indian is 3600

" " " Mexican 1800

Draught of Indian 30 ft

" " Mexican 25 ft 5 in'

Speed of Indian 12 knots loaded

" " Mexican 10 " "

The Mexican burns 37 tons of coal per day and the Indian 58.

The "Great Eastern" measured 692 feet long 83 ft broad and 24 feet deep.

Evidently modern ship building guided by the experience of the past calls for vessels of deeper draught.

The White Star line has now the ss. Celtic about to sail from Belfast and the Runic on the stocks there, of 34 feet draught each, and carrying capacity 18000 tons; about 200 tons more than the Great Eastern.

These two ships are about 4000 tons bigger than the Oceanic their last new mail and passenger ship, and the Cymric, a freight vessel, and carrying 100 first class passengers as well, launched about eighteen months ago, and were the wonders of the world at the time.

It has unfortunately been the rule to measure the capacity of the St. Lawrence route by what can be done at Montreal, and this is why said route is only considered available for six or seven months of the year while it is well known that we have at least nine months if not all year round navigation from Quebec. Certainly when the piers of the new bridge, now in course of construction over the St. Lawrence river are built there will be no trouble in keeping our port open all winter, and the problem of winter navigation in the gulf of St. Lawrence may be solved in the near future also.

Our fast Atlantic service has been hanging fire for a dozen years or more and many reasons have been given for the delay, but if I may venture to speak the truth, the chief reason is that vessels of the necessary capacity cannot go to Montreal. Possibly we may have to wait until the channel is deepened!