

worth of butter per annum—a trade all worked up in a remarkably short time and that the whole subsidy required for this service is only 5 per cent. on one such item, omitting all reference to the probable reductions through postage.”

Is the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce favourable to the proposal?

“I hope to secure the co-operation of all the Australian chambers, but naturally, as blood is thicker than water, and I have been associated with Victorian interests for the last thirty years, I look for strongest support here. I may be pardoned for saying that the enterprise is worthy the widest support. Even should we secure the subsidy we have asked for, I may point out that a very heavy responsibility will still rest upon us in connection with the undertaking.”

Mention has already been made of the attractions of the Canadian route to Australians visiting England. What are the prospects in the other direction?

“I am glad you have asked the question. Take in the first place the natural passenger traffic from Canada and the United States alone. There is a large leisure class in Canada and the northern states who spend many of their winters in France and the southern part of Europe. With the facilities for travelling west offered by such boats as the *Miowera* and *Warrimoo*, I am confident that a great many of this leisure class would visit Australia. As showing the desire in Canada to obtain as much information as possible on Australian affairs, I have to-day received a cable message from our representative in Ottawa asking on behalf of Mr. *Bowell*, the acting Canadian Premier, that we should forward all the latest commercial statistics, and such information as is usually contained in year books. Dealing still with the passenger traffic, I may point out that our agents in America will, if the necessary encouragement to promptly open the service be given, bring the attractions of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a sea trip from Vancouver to Australia via Honolulu before visitors to the great exhibition at Chicago, so that many may be induced to go home via Australia. A special traffic of this character at the outset would greatly help to popularise the route, and to advertise the colonies as well. We want advertising, too. I think even the working man has now come to the conclusion that it is a fallacy to keep people out of Aus-