

PACIFIC COMMERCE AND FAST MAIL SERVICE.

But in addition to the importance to Canada of participation in the trans-Atlantic passenger and immigration traffic the events transpiring in the East, which are likely to involve the commerce of China, are of great significance to the Dominion. This vast empire, endowed with greater natural resources than India or Africa, and possessing greater population than either, presents a tempting field for Canada and the States fronting on the Pacific. The nations of the world, Christian and Pagan, are ceaseless in effort to secure supremacy in commerce, wealth, and dominion. And to secure these results, the patriotism, strength and resources of nations must at times be taxed to their utmost in maintaining armies and navies, and in systems of transportation and intercommunication. This struggle for domain and commerce beyond the seas has caused Great Britain to expend five hundred million dollars on her present navy. Germany is expending two hundred millions on naval improvements. France, the United States, and particularly Russia, are following the lead of England. The little kingdom of Japan has recently provided a large sum for additions to her navy, which, when completed, will place her fleet third among the navies of the world.

While the nations are being heavily taxed in construction of navies, and sustaining fleets and armies for commercial and political advantages, we are fortunate to have England secure us markets free of such heavy burdens, leaving us only the light work of building lines of transportation for the development of Canadian industries and commerce.

In the establishment of rapid and economic transit, there are three questions of importance to Canada to be considered.

1. The boats should not only be suitable for mails, travel and traffic, but of a type to meet the requirements of first-class auxiliary cruisers. In the event of a general European war, requiring England's fleet abroad, Canada's large foreign commerce on two oceans without means of keeping open communication across the sea, would be seriously hampered. The speed question in this connection is one of first importance. The maritime powers in the construction of modern fleets are making this a special feature.