



FIREPLACE, ETC., IN SMOKING ROOM, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA

various sections of the ship, and electric radiators and electric fans can also be used in the state or public rooms should the conditions so demand. The electric generating plant, consisting of five independent sets of engines and dynamos, provides a complete system of electric lights, radiators, and power for the large stokehold fans, also for the ventilating fans throughout the ship, and the silent working cranes and winches for the rapid handling of cargo. Signalling at sea can be carried on by a semaphore on the bridge of the type used in the British Admiralty for short distances, while the equipment includes, of course, the long-range Marconi system.

A point not to be lost sight of is that these vessels, though intended primarily for the passenger service, will carry several thousand tons of freight on each voyage between Canada and the Orient. This feature of their usefulness to Western Canada is important. Hitherto the Chinese and Japanese have not been large con-

sumers of wheaten bread, but there are signs that, in this as well as in other matters, they are going to follow the example of the European and American peoples more and more. Probably we shall see in the future large shipments of grain and flour being made across the Pacific from Vancouver, together with machinery and manufactured goods. On their return voyage eastward the ships will bring huge consignments of tea, rice, spices and, most important of all, raw silk. This last-named commodity is a cargo that requires to be carried in the fastest and most reliable boats, as, owing to its immense value, the time spent in transit represents an unproductive period for a considerable amount of capital. This enhances the importance of the route via Vancouver from China to the Eastern States and even to the silk manufactories of Europe.

With the greatest sincerity Vancouver, Victoria (also a calling-place for the White