

navigation, we are astounded, and I wish Mr. Fleming in his paper had given us some information as to the prosperity—the increasing prosperity of Canada, showing the necessity not only for the line now proposed, but for other lines to follow. I recollect near fifty years ago, when I was in Nova Scotia, I opened the first gold mine at Sherbrooke. I notice that the Dominion in 1885 produced \$10,000,000 of mineral, and in 1895 \$22,000,000—a marvellous progress. At the present time we find there is a gold wave passing over the world, and I maintain from what I know of Canada, that there is not a richer country in the world for the precious and other metals. In the Mackenzie basin there is from 150 to 200,000 square miles of auriferous deposit, and 150,000 square miles of petroleum lands. On the Pacific Coast we find in British Columbia 1,300 miles of coast, 500 miles in breadth, that is also auriferous. Where is there a greater country in the world for minerals than Canada? That is why we should have more means of communication with Canada in the way of additional steamship lines, such will increase the country's greatness and riches. It has recently been argued that we should have stores of corn in this country to guard against famine during wars. I maintain that the greatest granary we can have is Canada within a few days' sail of England, and the Canadians are willing and able to supply us with all the food we require, not only in the matter of grain but also of cattle. A statement made in the paper I think is made in error. Mr. Fleming says:—

In Canada we have an inland sea—the Gulf of St. Lawrence—like the Baltic, open in summer, but in winter more or less obstructed by ice so as to impede navigation. The shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence are everywhere British, while Sweden, Germany, and Denmark share with Russia the claim to the shores of the Baltic. Hudson Bay in one respect resembles the White Sea; its shores are wholly Canadian, as the shores of the White Sea are wholly Russian. During a short period in summer both seas are open to navigation.

I think the evidence goes to the contrary of part of that statement. The White Sea is closed by ice for nine months of the year; whereas Hudson Bay has never been known to freeze over. The evidence shows that Hudson Bay for only a distance of 1,000 yards from the shore is ever frozen over. Dr. Bell, the Assistant Director of the Meteorological Survey of Canada, informs us that in the popular mind Hudson Bay is associated with the polar regions, yet that no part comes within the Arctic Circle, and the south part is south of the latitude of London. It never freezes