comparison with that flowing to New York. Montreal is a good port for freight, but Halifax is far from the point of origin, and just as distant from the main currents of passenger traffic. Can we honestly tell the investing public—for if we grant a joint subsidy we shall virtually be putting our official endorsement on the scheme—that any Company which sinks $30,000,-000 in *Lusitanias* for this route is likely to make a profit and have an abiding business?

That is the question before the two Governments. Navigators, engineers and transportation men do not think it would be prudent, for the present at any rate, to put on the route vessels of a greater speed than 20 knots. They are not frightened by the objection raised in England that the Lower St. Lawrence is exceptionally dangerous to large vessels on account of fogs. Fogs are more prevalent in some seasons than in others, but, striking an average, the best Canadian authorities say the risk of detention and accident from fog between Quebec and Belle Ile or Cape Race is not 5 per cent greater than on the New York route. The risk from ice in the spring is, however, considerably greater. The main reasons why the experts referred to would exclude *Lusitanias* and adopt steamers of only 20 knots, with a draft not to exceed 33 feet, are, first, that the channels below Quebec, Montreal being out of court, cannot be made deep enough or safe enough to accommodate larger vessels, at any rate until the North Channel is adopted; secondly, the business of the route, including all that might be drummed up in the United States, would not, at the present time, justify the employment of ships of greater speed. In their judgment, Quebec should be the summer and Halifax the winter port. To give the new vessels fair play, the rule obliging mail ships to call at Sydney in the early season, before Belle Ile is open, when the ice is pouring through Cabot Strait or lying jammed in a vast field off coast, should be abolished. The call of incoming vessels at Rimouski is necessary perhaps for the quicker