

referred to the possibility of reinforcing the navy with fast merchant steamships. You pointed out how desirable it would be in the event of war to have the means of strengthening the fleet by the addition of fast cruisers with armaments ready prepared.

It is suggested that mail lines be established from Vancouver, the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that the ships employed be of a high speed, specially constructed to meet the requirements of the Admiralty with respect to cruisers, and with the most approved accommodation for passengers.

It is obvious that a sufficient number of such ships for the two postal services across the Pacific, available as armed cruisers, would be of immense advantage in any emergency, while at ordinary times they would be actively engaged in the development of commerce.

It is calculated that, by powerful steamships of this class, the mails could be carried from England to Australian and Asiatic ports in considerably less time and at less cost than they are now conveyed; and it cannot be doubted that the establishment of such lines would develop commercial activity, and promote the general interests of the Empire on Pacific waters. It is not necessary to abandon the old postal routes in order to establish the new, but it is important that no time be lost in initiating a service so pregnant with possibilities.

The principle of growth is familiar to all colonists: it is one in which they all have faith; but there is one essential preliminary—there must be a beginning! Seed must be sown!

If it be not practicable at once to place on the two routes across the Pacific weekly lines of steamers, let it be so arranged that they will leave at wider intervals. If we cannot