

The St. Lawrence basin, the boundary between the United States and Canada, occupies part of both countries. The southern basin is almost wholly in the United States. The northern basin is almost wholly in Canada, and the line of contact between the two latter basins is in part coincident with the international boundary line. It will thus be seen that the great continental plain of North America is divided naturally as well as artificially east and west through the centre. It is divided naturally into three vast drainage basins, the smallest of which occupies a comparatively narrow strip along the eastern portion of the international boundary, while the other two discharge their waters in

DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.

The prairie region of Canada lies in the northern drainage basin. It may be considered to extend from south to north more than a thousand miles, and nearly the same distance from east to west. It is not at all a treeless prairie; a considerable portion is thinly wooded; yet the whole is considered as partaking more or less of the prairie character. * * * This great region is estimated to measure 200,000,000 acres, 160,000,000 acres of which is fit for tillage and grazing, of which 80,000,000 may be considered fit for cultivation. The extent of this Canadian prairie section is ten times the area of England. The climate of most of it is as salubrious as Central Minnesota (caused by the trade winds of the Pacific), while the spring time of the Peace River valley in the north-west corner of this prairie section is fully one month earlier than in this city, from which it is distant at least 1,500 miles in

AN AIR LINE.

It is in a spirit of harmonious action that the representatives here from the so-called smallest or eastern of these continental basins, viz., that of the great lakes and the St. Lawrence, would ask your attention to a brief review of its present usefulness in transporting from the producer to the consumer the marketable products of our people's labors, and to still further show how its connection by water can be made possible, not only with our great interior north and south basin, but also add to this combined volume of business that from over 4,000 miles of navigation in the great northern or Canadian basins, most of which is through their great and rapidly developing 1,000 miles square of prairie section heretofore alluded to.

THE OCEAN OUTLET

of this great north-western lake (Lake Superior) is through the St. Mary's River (some 60 miles long) with Lake Huron and its connecting rivers and lakes to Lake Erie, thence by the Welland Canal to Lake Ontario, and by the River St. Lawrence and its canals to