

necessitates new steamers. The coastwise business of the country is developing into regular steam packet lines. The influx of population into the Northwest, the development of the grain growing sections, demand rapidly increasing steam tonnage on the Great Lakes. Shall Canadian skill, labor and capital have an opportunity of employment in the development of and the profits in this growing business, or shall it be left to the enterprise of outside people?

Canada possesses extensive coal deposits at tide water, which afford a Marine traffic of over four millions of tons; she ships a million thousand feet of lumber products annually; her export of grain, rapidly increasing, will soon reach a hundred millions of bushels. Of other products Canada has hundreds of thousands of tons to export. In addition to providing this enormous trade for a shipping business Canada has excavated canals, deepened rivers, dredged harbours, erected docks, buoyed and lit the entrance to all our water-ways, and in short created the business, the facilities and conditions demanded by a maritime power, and then stopped short without taking the one effective step to bring into being the thing itself—a Mercantile Marine.

