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The London syndicate who propose to establish a three and a half days steamship service between Halifax and Blacksod Bay, Ireland, are evidently in earnest. Lord Strathcona is very much interested in the scheme, and is said to have offered to personally back it with half a million dollars. The Great Britain, Ireland and Canadian Express Route is the official title of a project they propose—the establishment of a service between Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Blacksod Bay (on the west coast of Ireland) of a line of first-class steamships capable of crossing the Atlantic in three and a half days at an average speed of 25 knots per hour; the establishment of ferries between the east coast of Ireland and the west coast of Scotland and England by means of steamships so constructed as to be capable of conveying passengers and goods trains entire from port to port without disturbing passengers or unloading trucks; the construction of railways in Ireland as may be necessary in con-

junction with existing lines, to provide for an excellent passenger service between Blacksod Bay and the east coast at a speed of not less than fifty miles per hour. The distance between Blacksod and Halifax is 2,100 miles and with 25-knot steamers the trip would be made in three and a half days. The distance between Blacksod and London is 664 miles, and would be covered in about 14 hours, and between Halifax and Montreal in 18 to 20 hours, so that the mails could be conveyed from the Post Office in London to the Post Office in Montreal in less than five days, from London to Chicago in less than six days, and London to the Pacific Coast in nine days. With proper steamers on the Pacific Ocean it would be possible to deliver the mails in Japan in 17 days, and to Hong Kong in about 22 days. The promoters claim that passengers and mails can be landed in Halifax and sent to Chicago by the time the best New York steamers reach that port.

The distance by rail from Blacksod Bay to the east coast is about 228 miles. Allowing 22 miles for the ferry and 414 miles to London, the whole distance from Blacksod to London is 664 miles. The trains travelling at 50 miles per hour to reach London. The distance from Blacksod to Dublin is 222 miles, and ferry steamers can take loaded trucks thence to Holyhead. The growing intercourse between Canada and Northern Europe, and the increasing emigration to Canada from Belgian, German and Scandinavian ports, call for improved facilities in this direction.

It is understood that the promoters will ask an annual subsidy of \$1,000,000 from the Canadian Government and \$500,000 from the Imperial authorities. Ten years ago a Canadian Government made a contract with the Allan, by which they were to receive three-quarters of a million for a service of 20-knot boats.

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