

Capt. Markham, R. N., an experienced Arctic navigator, accompanied the expedition of 1886. He reports: "I believe the Strait will be found navigable for at least four months every year, and probably often for five or more. There will, I have no doubt, be many years when navigation can be carried out safely and surely from the first of June until the end of November."

Capt. John Macpherson, of Stepney, London, as first officer and captain in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, made voyages from London and Stromness to Hudson Bay, and return, annually for twenty years. He writes: "There is no reason why steamships could not make the passage (of the Strait) as early as the first of June, and come out as late as the middle of November."

The Bay is open all the year round. It is described by Lieut. Gordon as "a vast basin of comparatively warm water," and by Dr. Bell as "very tranquil and wholly free from storms." In his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, the latter stated that he found the mean summer temperature of the water of the bay 53° Farenheit, while that of Lake Superior was 39.5° during the same season.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

The land policy of the Canadian Government is extremely liberal, every head of a family and every male person eighteen years of age and upwards being entitled to a free homestead of 160 acres, on easy terms of settlement, and pre-emption of an additional 160 acres at 10s. per acre. The soil is the richest in the world. All kinds of grains and vegetables grow with a luxuriance not equalled elsewhere without abundant and expensive artificial aids. With the advantage and encouragement of the new trade route there is no doubt that immigration will largely increase.

Lord Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne, and other distinguished gentlemen who have visited the Northwest have expressed the belief that the country is capable of supporting, in comfortable independence, an agricultural population of fifteen or twenty millions. It is destined, and before many decades, to approach that number, for no other country in the world at present offers, or can offer, as great and many advantages to the European emigrant seeking a new and better home. The immigration this year is largely in excess of that for many years past, and the conditions point to a steady and permanent maintenance of that increase.