

trains run upon one time, just as in Europe trains are arranged on the times of the great capitals. It is not always possible even under this arrangement to catch a train, for the experience of many of us is that there is not only meridional but ladies' time, and Mr. Fleming, great scientific man as he is, has never been able to calculate and formulate that time. I have no doubt that to-night he will tell us something not only about trans-continental travel, but also about ocean travel—not only what trains to catch, but about the means of crossing the two oceans.

Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., then read his paper on—

### CANADA AND OCEAN HIGHWAYS.

I have been requested to address the members of this Institute on Canada. The subject selected for me is exceedingly comprehensive, and I owe it to myself to say that it will not be possible, in the short space of time placed at my disposal, to do more than refer briefly to some one of the many considerations having relationship to the Dominion; and that, imperfectly as I may be fitted to address you, I have undertaken the duty not without hesitation, but owing to the desire I strongly entertain of serving my country as well as I am able.

The cause which the Royal Colonial Institute is designed to promote is indicated in the words that appear in the motto it adopted. Whatever title may be assigned to my paper, these words, "United Empire," are sufficiently suggestive to me. In my opinion I can submit to this audience no remarks more appropriate than those which are in full accord with the two words quoted. Canada is no insignificant portion of the great British Empire, and in my country, as in every quarter of the globe where the sway of our good Queen extends, be the portion of territory of wide or of limited extent, we find a feeling prevailing that it is of the first importance to improve and increase the means of intercourse between the individual parts, so as to strengthen the bonds of union between the Mother Country and the whole Empire.

I propose, therefore, respectfully to submit to your consideration what may be called the development of the means of transit across the ocean ferry lying between Great Britain and Canada. In directing your attention to this subject I shall refer to the past, the present, and the future, alluding briefly to proposals which have been made so that the ocean may be crossed rapidly and in safety. I shall likewise submit some suggestions in reference to means of