

months. The first suggestion was that the steamers should make Halifax their Canadian port the year round that they might have the advantage of its short route to Liverpool, and the old vision was revived of people from New York, Boston and elsewhere abandoning their own equally fast lines and hastening thither to reduce the time to be spent on the ocean. That fallacy has already been dealt with and need not detain us again; it is so transparently contrary to men's habits of travelling that anyone may see through it. If we reflect what the upkeep of a ship like the *Lusitania* means, what is involved even in tying her with her capital account to a wharf, how little cargo she can carry, and how large a passenger list she must have on every voyage in order to make both ends meet, it is easy to believe that she finds it impossible, even with her magnificent subsidies, to clear expenses on the New York route; and if that is the case at New York, what would be the size of the deficit at Halifax? The cost of building and operating a vessel like the *Lusitania* cannot be arrived at, as some suppose, by taking that of a 16-knot ship and working the matter out by rule of three. Cost increases at an amazing rate with the addition of every knot to the speed. The coal bill of the *Lusitania* on a single voyage to New York, about \$26,000, would pay for all the coal consumed by a 16-knot steamer in some months; and so with wear and tear of machinery and almost everything else.

From its loveliness and its historic associations, the St. Lawrence route possesses a spell which is bound to attract travellers under any circumstances, and if it were open the year round it would be an ideal route for the largest of steamers. But what the Dominion and Imperial Governments have to ponder is this: A long winter, during which passenger business by Halifax and St. John is depleted owing to the diversion of traffic to American ports, while in summer all the business obtainable in Canada, or to be had from the United States, is and must always be small by