

CANADA'S TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

The British Empire has been aptly described as a gigantic belt encircling the world, with the Dominion of Canada as the buckle binding together the two ends thereof. We sometimes wonder if the Canadian people really appreciate the important position this country occupies in the world's galaxy of nations, and the fact that it is not only the centre of the British Empire, but the principal source of the world's supply of wheat, the most important food product at the present time. The heavy charges for transportation has prevented the Canadian people receiving the full benefits which should accrue to them from the production of this most important cereal and they have been seeking some means of reaching the markets of the world at a reduced cost. The construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was undertaken for the purpose of increasing our transportation facilities, but while it will undoubtedly aid in the development of the country, it will not materially lessen the cost of transportation. The impossibility of moving traffic by rail at the minimum of cost is generally recognized by transportation experts and it is to the great natural waterways of the country that we must look for cheap transportation. Traffic can be transported by water at one third the cost of rail carriage, consequently the development of our waterways is the most important factor in the development of our trade. The Dominion Government has kept this matter steadily in mind and at the present time have four great projects under consideration, all of which directly affect transportation matters. They are:

The Hudson Bay Railway.

The Georgian Bay Canal.

The Deepening of the Waterway to the Ocean.

The All Red Line.

We propose to publish a series of articles dealing in detail with each of these projects so that the public may have a clear understanding regarding the situation and be in a position to decide for themselves as to whether or not these different projects are entitled to their support. We do not intend to deal with these subjects from a political standpoint but strictly on their merits, having in mind their bearing upon the transportation problems of our country, and our readers will find them interesting and of sufficient importance to warrant their serious consideration.