

It is far from being among the most serious objections that the Isthmus of Panama is without harbours upon either side, with shoals and shallow waters difficult of access from either ocean, situated in the latitude subject to calms, squalls, and tornadoes; the climate unhealthy in the extreme, nine months in the year subject to excessive torrents of rain, and the thermometer ranging from 82° to 88° , and the other three months from 90° to 95° , a temperature and climate certain to destroy all animal and vegetable productions, and also to injure greatly all manufactured goods.

In a transportation by Railway across the Isthmus of Panama steam must be used; depôts of coal must become necessary, transported from an immense distance upon the Atlantic side, consequently the rate of freights must be so great as to preclude the transmission of merchandize. Upon the Pacific side depôts of coal would become necessary at the Sandwich Islands or at the Marquesas or Society Islands; the distance from Panama to China, being over 9,000 miles, what steamer could carry freight in addition to her necessary fuel? For such route the cost of the quantity of fuel to be placed at such depôts (a large portion, if not all of it, would most likely be brought from Fuca Straits,) would render the undertaking so unprofitable that it could not compete with the old route round the Cape. Again, the route across the Pacific from Panama, offers many difficulties to sailing vessels in the prevailing winds, calms, &c., so much so that even a vessel might pass around the Cape to China in a shorter space of time than from Panama.

If these objections were not sufficient of themselves to settle the question as to the advantages of the route across the Isthmus of Panama, the distance gained by a route from the head of Lake Superior to Fuca Straits will.

Many, perhaps, who have not reflected upon our position with regard to China, will be surprised to know that here, in Toronto, we are upwards of two thousand miles nearer Canton, than is the Isthmus of Panama to that place; consequently, that through Canada, England can reach the great marts of Asia by a much shorter route than by any other.

Supposing that a ship canal was completed across the Isthmus of Panama, thereby obviating the necessary delays and