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17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

27th November, 1895.

Dear Mr. Ives,

I duly received your two cable messages of the 21st instant, as follows:-

- (1). "Confidential. Urgent. Impress upon Chamberlain  
" undesirable fixing as standard any named vessel. Canada  
" Government willing to agree upon vessels of tonnage, speed  
" and general appointment as Teutonic but perhaps built  
" on different lines taking advantage improvement con-  
" struction if found desirable to insure better service".
- (2). " Shall I make specifications or will Imperial  
" authorities".

To-day I sent you the following telegram in  
reply:-

" Steamship service. See my letter 15th to  
" Premier. Speed not to be less than Teutonic but all  
" other conditions left to Canadian Government who are to  
" prepare specifications and invite tenders. Cable me  
" general terms specification for approval Colonial Office  
" before tenders invited. Writing you more fully to-day's  
" mail".

As I promised in my letter to Sir Mackenzie  
Bowell, I enclose you herewith, a specification suggested  
by the Naval Armaments Company of a vessel which they con-  
sider would be the best for the service, and which could be  
built for £350,000; together with a memorandum showing how  
this vessel compared with the "Teutonic" and "Parisian".

The despatch from the Colonial Office to the  
Governor-General of the 21st instant - which was mailed  
last Thursday, will have reached you ere this. You will  
see by it that, while it is impossible for Her Majesty's  
Government to state in the absence of tenders what amount  
they will give, Mr. Chamberlain has decided to contribute

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