ever the sum, it would not be more than 20 per cent of that upon any wholly United States route. But there are many reasons why such a work will not be undertaken, unless as an international one, such as led to the improvement of the navigation of the Danube and the Rhine.

Canada, of course, could not consider it while her enlarged canals are incomplete on the St. Lawrence, and their value not tested, especially as against the barge system in operation there. For her own wants her new canals will be an outlet better than she can find elsewhere. Her need of the Welland Canal has been less than has been that of the United States for the same work, because the peninsula of Ontario, the richest portion of the Dominion, though bounded by three great lakes, can ship from the lower one, below the Welland Canal. But her recent developments in her prairie provinces will make Lake Superior her greatest grain-shipping centre, and her distant prairies will then need the most rapid and economical water route to the sea.

There is, moreover, not the same unanimity in Eastern Canada as in the north-western states, as to the benefits to be derived from a through commerce, for which Montreal and Quebec would be way stations. Lastly, there is disagreement as to the economy of extending the voyage of the lake vessel to Europe; and of its practicability under all circumstances, with a fresh-water crew.

Whenever the 14-feet draught is obtained, whatever may be the outcome of the barge question, there will be lake vessels descending to Montreal, and vessels coming from and going to sea *via* the St. Lawrence and Welland Canals. Colliers will come from Nova Scotia into Lake Ontario, if no further; and fruit vessels from the Mediterranean and the West Indies will penetrate to Lakes Michigan and Superior, and will not fail to get return cargo. Quebec is nearer to the Mediterranean and is a shorter water route from Gibraltar to Chicago than any other.

The next further enlargement which may be undertaken by Canada with respect to canals will be confined to lengthening