

miles, rich in material resources, abounding in coal and economic minerals, and with a sea coast of 800 leagues, and an estimated population of 400 millions, affording almost unlimited markets, easily explains the struggle of the nations for possessions, trading and railway privileges.

"It is impossible to overrate the gravity of the issue. It is speech, emphasized the importance of the Chinese trade. He said: not a question of a single port in China—that is a very small matter. It is not a question of a single province; it is a question of the whole fate of the Chinese Empire, and our interests in China are so great, our proportion of the trade is so enormous,

The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, in his recent Birmingham and the potentialities of that trade are so gigantic, that I feel that no more vital question has ever been presented for the decision of a government and for the decision of a nation, and for my part I have tried to-night to state clearly and without exaggeration the conditions of the problem that we have before us."

It has been said that, "with the development of the marine engine, the sea unites, rather than divides, widely separated lands." We are at the gateway of the Middle Kingdom and with England to secure us an entrance, and commercial and political prestige, we should improve the present opportunity by following the example of other nations in establishing necessary means of transportation to take advantage of the situation, which if neglected now may be lost to us through the strivings of the nations whose political or commercial interests are antagonistic to our own.

European-Asiatic travel through the Dominion has been the ambition of Canadians. Its realization would so quicken the pulse of trade as to cause a permanent commercial advancement. Our geographical position, where the Atlantic and the Pacific, respectively, furnish the shortest and easiest access from America to Europe and Asia, affords splendid opportunity for its accomplishment; but transit facilities are wanting. The European nations are increasing speed on the Suez route to Chinese ports. Six fast express Atlantic lines connect New York with European ports. Three lines of railway connect the Atlantic with the Pacific; and five trans-Pacific lines ply between American, Pacific