

SPEED AND SUBSIDIES.

In my previous article I touched upon the rapid development of the United States by means of her increased facilities for ocean travel, and also upon the results of a slow service for Canada.

The mere knowledge of these facts will serve the purpose of begetting a feeling of weakness and shame; but the knowledge of them, which will lead to prompt and wise action, will be of incalculable service. Our danger now is not in ignorance, but in inaction. We sit by and see the rapid enlargement of the nation south of us as if this were the highest gratification of our national ambition. When carefully examined, the phenomenal increase in the population of the Republic is a proof that all things having been equal in the facilities for travel and other possible inducements to emigrants, Canada too would have enlarged in population as fast as her neighbor. But the means hitherto employed have been altogether inadequate.

A thorough and impartial examination of the whole question of building up the country by means of immigration requires a careful comparison of the means used by the two countries lying side by side. The tide will always flow in the open channels. The United States have the best of facilities for conveying people from the old to the new world. How was this secured? That is the question for the Dominion to-day.

Without state aid in subsidies the present success in ocean travel could never have been secured. But changes in this respect must be made if Canada would compete with her neighbor. When such measures have been adopted as are easily within reach of the Dominion, and such ocean routes chosen as are open to us, then it will be seen that the vacant lands of Canada, as well as those of the United States, will be filled up with an industrious and prosperous population. These two points I will undertake to discuss in an impartial manner and largely by the use of facts.

In establishing lines of fast ocean steamers, state subsidies have been essential to success. In 1840 the Cunard line was established on the strength of a liberal subsidy from the English government, supplemented by provincial and United States subvention. About