

Water Transportation Development Unsatisfactory

On the whole, this history has worked out thus:—That Canada has been brilliantly successful in developing her land transportation, in which her difficulties have been greatest and her facilities fewest; and that she has been unsuccessful to a mortifying extent in developing water transportation, for which she has been given uncommon advantages. Her transportation development thus has been uneven and ill-balanced.

This lack of balance, productive as it is of great immediate loss, has a serious meaning for the future. Canada is so placed between Europe and the Far East that she should be able, if her land and water transportation systems were well developed and skilfully combined, to add to her other commercial advantages an immense carrying trade between those two enormous masses of population. As long, however, as the Canadian transportation system is weak on its water side this possibility cannot be realized.

What Canada Loses

Apart from this, the atrophy of the Canadian marine deprives the country of profits at once possible and immense; and in addition inflicts positive and severe loss. *Including allied and subsidiary interests, not far short of 200,000 persons draw pay from the railway industry of Canada: that is, not far short of a million Canadians are supported by it.* Thus not only do the producers of Canada get their goods carried, but the carriage of those goods greatly increases their home market. Further, the producers have under substantial control the rates at and conditions under which their goods are carried; and they value this control highly.

Using Non-Canadian Ports and Non-Canadian Ships

Compare with this the marine carriage of Canadian goods. It is very largely done by non-Canadians. On the Great Lakes Canadian shipping amounts to a contemptible fraction of the total bulk of tonnage afloat. On the ocean Canadian ships in 1911-12 carried only about one million out of nine million tons carried to and from Canadian ports; and in addition huge quantities of Canadian goods had passed through American