

At present no reliable chart of the North Pacific coast is in existence, and for want of recent and accurate survey the navigation, even of the Lower Fraser, is difficult. In no part of the Dominion is a hydrographic survey so greatly needed as in British Columbia. Coasting vessels have to thread their way through a perfect labyrinth of straits and channels, and as there are neither lights nor buoys on a long stretch of the northern coast, the wonder is that disasters are not much more frequent. The lighting and buoying of the northern coast has therefore become a necessity. In order to meet this want, a survey has been commenced under the superintendence of Captain Boulton, and Col. Anderson, chief engineer of the Marine Department, will shortly leave Ottawa to examine into and report upon means of aiding navigation in Pacific coast waters.

THE Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, familiarly known as the Allan Line, has purchased six vessels, all first-class boats, of the State Steamship Company, of Glasgow, now in liquidation—the "State of Alabama," 2,313 tons; "State of Indiana," 2,584 tons; "State of Nebraska," 3,996 tons; "State of Pennsylvania," 2,483 tons; "State of Georgia," 2,489 tons, and "State of Nevada," 2,488 tons. It is generally believed that at least some of them will be put on the Montreal route to replace the steamships "Siberian," "Corean," "Assyrian" and "Pomeranian," which will go on the New York service. The "Assyrian" is to sail from Glasgow for New York, on May 1st, and others will follow weekly. It is currently reported that the purchase price of these steamships was only £75,000. This sum will, it is said, barely pay the creditors of the State Line, and the shareholders will receive nothing. Five-pound State Line shares have been offered on the Glasgow Exchange, but no purchasers can be found even at sixpence a share.

THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.—According to the report of Mr. Schreiber, chief engineer and general manager of Government railways, the total mileage is as follows:—

	Miles.
Intercolonial railway.....	894
Eastern Extension railway.....	80
Windsor Branch railway.....	32
Prince Edward Island railway.....	211
Total.....	1,217