

England and her dependencies in the East, and of strengthening the defences of the Empire at large. Possessing as she does the great steam fleet of the world, and the power of increasing it to still larger proportions, she can always maintain a steady and secure communication with China, Japan, Australia, and even with India, and all other countries in which she has important interests at stake. From her depôts at Halifax, or other places on the Atlantic coast of the Dominion, she can in four days reach the shores of the Pacific, and supply a fleet ordered to protect her interests in the East, should they ever be threatened by Russia or any other Power. It is well known that Russia is creeping down the coast of Mancluria to the borders of the Corea, and has already taken possession of the island of Saghalien. Mr. Laurence Oliphant, in a recent issue of *Blackwood's Magazine*, has shown that she has had her eyes for years on Tsusima, which occupies a commanding position in the straits separating Corea from Japan. Whilst preserving Bladivostock, at the extreme southern corner of the Russian Asiatic coast, as the base of all serious operations, she is likely sooner or later to seize Tsusima, or other available spot in those Eastern waters, and "fortify it as a marine station, well armed and provisioned, whence her fleets can issue at all seasons, and prey upon our commerce and bombard our colonies." Should ever a great struggle for the supremacy in the East occur between England and Russia—and there are many keen students of Russian policy and history who believe it is inevitable in the course of time—the ports of Canada and her trans-continental line of railway must be found invaluable auxiliaries in supporting the honour and dignity of England. The fishermen and sailors of the Dominion must prove an element of great strength in the maintenance of the line of communications with England and those countries with which she is politically or commercially identified. They can man the vessels necessary to protect our ports, and otherwise assist in the naval defences of the Empire. A thousand stalwart fishermen from Nova Scotia would aid materially in the defence of British Columbia or any other section of Canada.

Looking then at the maritime industries of Canada from an Imperial as well as a purely commercial standpoint, we cannot fail to see how intimately connected they are with the security of the Empire. We all know that no country can be truly great that has not a seaboard and does not follow maritime pursuits. Spain sank low in the scale of nations as her maritime power declined with the loss of her great colonies. The prosperity of Italy has increased with the growth of her commerce and shipping, and she need no longer lament the palmy days of Genoa