

# **Shipbuilding in Canada**

**A Memorial Presented to the Canadian Government**

**April, 1913**

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## **I. Water Transportation in Canada**

It is the purpose of this Memorial to represent that the shipbuilding industry of Canada merits a greater degree of support and countenance from the government than it hitherto has enjoyed. It is the purpose of the memorialists to rest their claim upon the position of the industry as a vital link in the great marine transportation interest of Canada; upon the importance of that industry as an essential feature in the National Policy of all-round development of Canada; upon its present proportions; and upon its immense future possibilities.

### **A Transportation Country**

Canada is marked out by nature as essentially a transportation country. Her land surface is set off into great separated producing areas. At the very heart of the country, on the prairies, there is in process now a species of economic explosion, forcing vast quantities of products, not so much to other areas on the same continent, as across them, and across the ocean. The moving of products in this country is on a large scale. As if to fit in with this peculiarity, Nature has devised for Canada a wonderful system of waterways: a disproportionately long oceanic coast-line; a chain of lakes and rivers penetrating from the east 2,500 miles inland and almost to the very prairies; the great indentation of Hudson Bay penetrating almost to the prairies from the north. The history of Canada has been largely a history of transportation.