

steamers), Victoria's just claims call for more than ordinary comment, and should convince the C. P. R. Co. that any further indifference thereto cannot but be resented.

Another line of steamships, the Upton Company, has recently commenced a monthly service with the Orient, intending to make Victoria the first Port of call inwards and the last outwards. Your Committee understand the financial result to the Company has been satisfactory so far, and it is hoped sufficient inducements will be forthcoming in the future to ensure the continuance of this service.

To illustrate the facilities existing at this Port for the accommodation of Ocean Steamships, your Committee would point out that the SS. "Batavia," with 22 feet draught, entered and docked at extreme low tide; the SS. "Costa Rica," drawing 24 feet, being likewise accommodated at the outer harbor of Victoria. The draught of the C. P. R. Co's Steamships from China, as officially reported, was as follows: "Empress of India," 24 feet; "Empress of Japan," 24 feet. These steamships were not docked at the Outer Wharf, as the Masters had not received authority from the C. P. R. Co.

Harbor.

The improvements to the Outer Harbor of Victoria, undertaken by private enterprise, and mentioned in the previous annual report, are rapidly approaching completion; in connection therewith a Minute of Council was drawn up and forwarded to the Minister of Public Works, urging that the work of dredging the approach to the wharves to a depth of water equal to that provided alongside the wharves should be carried out by the Dominion Government. A deputation of members of the Board waited upon Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works, September 13th, and further represented the constantly increasing trade and shipping of the Port, and the importance of dredging on a more improved and modern scale in the Outer Harbor, and the general enlargement of Victoria Harbor system, by constructing a sea wall, extending from Brochey's Ledge to Holland Point; but the appropriations in the regular estimates, recently passed by the Dominion House of Commons, are quite inadequate for any practical improvement to be effected. Your Committee would direct the earnest