

ROUTES AND SPEED.

In the discussion of ocean speed, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of selecting tracks absolutely clear of every obstacle, hindrance and possible danger to fast steaming from port of reception of mails to port of delivery.

An eminent authority on rapid transit, Austin Corbin, says on this subject: "The introduction of some means of rapid transit between the two English speaking nations, wholly free from inconveniences, delays and hazards due to tides, fogs and storms, encountered in narrow and crowded water ways and along dangerous coasts, is of the utmost importance to all trans-Atlantic travellers, who look upon the voyage as a necessary means to an end. The universal demand is for the shortest possible sea passage for travellers and the quickest delivery of mails.

The question in projecting the best trans-Atlantic steamship line is how to secure a route which combines the merits of shortness and directness with safety and comfort to the traveller. In solving the question, ports having PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION FOR EMBARKATION AND DEBARKATION, and from which vessels can AT ONCE OBTAIN FULL SPEED, must be selected and ships must be run which have A MAXIMUM OF SPEED, coupled with all the modern conveniences of security and comfort."

In establishing a Canadian fast line, it is necessary to use ocean tracks, affording equal speed to that obtained on the New York routes; and in order to ascertain what is required, it is necessary to compare the merits of the respective American and Canadian routes; but it is not an easy task to compare them. So long as we are content to say one route is shorter than another, it is easy enough; but to express the comparative merits of the several routes by the maximum of speed, it is necessary to take as a basis of comparison, the speed attained on the respective routes, the regularity of ocean passages under all circumstances, and the hazards and accidents incurred.

To make this comparison of value, data are necessary, and it is essential that the data should be accurate. Notwithstanding the