

### The Fast Steamship Service Again

**D**URING the fall and winter, comparatively little was said about the proposed fast Atlantic steamship service, which formed so absorbing a topic last summer. The matter has come to the front again, however, and in a considerably more definite form. The Canadian Government has called for tenders for a fortnightly service by steamers of 21 knots, and by steamers also of 16 knots; the routes to be between Liverpool and Quebec in summer, and Liverpool and Halifax in the winter; the ships to ply between and call at only British and Canadian ports. What line will get this contract will not be known till June, but it is thought that the subsidy will be about \$750,000.

One of the tenderers will be the C.P.R., and the chances are strongly in favor of that company receiving the contract. The C.P.R. has recently purchased the entire Atlantic fleet of the Elder-Dempster line, and is thus in a position to furnish a first-class service. It also has the advantages of trans-continental railway connections. Since the matter has been thus brought to public attention again, considerable fear has been expressed that a monopoly will be the result, and legitimate competition will be crowded out. This, however, is groundless pessimism. The future growth of Canada demands increased transportation facilities, and the C.P.R., because it has a good equipment, will not necessarily prevent other lines from having a share of the trade. It will be one of the duties of the Government to see that a fair chance is given to all.

### A New and Important Industry

**A**MONG the most promising industries which are now interesting Canadians is the manufacture of beet sugar. Heretofore there has been an idea in the minds of many that beet sugar is an inferior product, and would never take the place of cane sugar.

As a matter of fact, however, it is equally good, and often superior to some of the granulated white sugars offered on the market. In the United States the manufacture of beet sugar has become almost a national industry, the total production last year being 860,000 tons. The natural facilities in Canada are better than in the United States. In California, one of the great beet-producing states, the beets have to be used up quickly, owing to climatic conditions, but in Ontario the sugar factories are able to run several months longer, beets cut in March being as sound as in November. The quality of the Canadian beet is also superior, and wholesale grocers pronounce the Canadian sugar to equal any made in the world. The largest proportion of sugar imported into Canada in recent years has been from Germany and other European countries, and it has been beet sugar; it has been amply proven that we can manufacture as good an article in our own country.

There are already four sugar factories in Ontario, and several more are projected. The crop is a profitable one to the farmer, yielding a net profit of \$25.00 per acre. Other provinces are equally adapted, and there is reason to believe that in a short time Canada's sugar bill will be in support of a home industry.

### A Politician Who Sees Canada's Needs

**O**NE of the best-known politicians of Eastern Canada is Attorney-General Longley, of Nova Scotia. Until recent years he has been a strong free-trader, but now, like Mr. Tarte, he has modified his politics in the face of what he sees to be the country's needs. In a recent article in an American magazine he shows that from a hard-and-fast free trade policy, the Liberal party has changed, by force of circumstances, to a policy of partial protection—which Canadians are now realizing, it may be said, to be inadequate. Mr. Longley says:

"The Liberal party was compelled to