

request of the Empress. The better sentiment of Britain and America is however, strong against the surrender of the prisoners.

#### A SCHOOL FOR JOURNALISTS.

Columbia University, New York City, has recently received a donation of \$2,000,000 for the establishment of a School of Journalism. This fund is the gift of Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, of the New York World. The school will have from the beginning the advice of men like Whitelaw Reid, of the New York Tribune; Victor Lawson, of the Chicago News; Charles H. Taylor, of the Boston Globe; President Eliot, of Harvard University, and others. The course of study will be two years, and if after three years the school is in successful operation, Mr. Pulitzer promises a gift of another million dollars. Certainly the field of journalism is one of supreme responsibility and widespread influence, and a too conscientious training cannot be given those who are to shape so largely the thoughts and views of men.

#### FOREIGN SHIPPING OF THE UNITED STATES.

The New York Board of Trade and Transportation have awakened with consternation to the fact that an ever-increasing fleet of foreign vessels is flooding American ports, and carrying more than nine-tenths of the imports and exports of the United States.

It is certainly remarkable that the United States of 1810, with only 7,000,000 inhabitants, owned more registered tonnage for over-sea trade than does the United States of 1903, with a population of 80,000,000. In 1810 the tonnage was 981,000, and it is now 873,000, an actual decrease of 6,000 tons from the year before. In 1810 91.5 per cent. of the ocean trade of that country was carried by her own ships, while last year only 8.8 per cent. was so transported. The United States pays over \$100,000,000 a year to these foreign vessels, and in case of war most of them would be used against her. The wonder is that her people have not before been roused to discussion of the problem.

#### FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS BY LAND.

One of the most daring, and to some minds visionary, railroad

schemes is that of the Trans-Alaska-Siberian railway. The plan is to connect the railroad systems of the eastern and western hemispheres, and provide an all-rail route from New York to Paris by means of a tunnel under Behring Strait. The plan is, of course, as yet a thing of the future, but for the past year or two it has received the careful study and consideration of Russian and French engineers.

They believe such a tunnel could be constructed at a cost of about \$20,000,000. The Strait is about thirty-six miles wide from Cape Prince of Wales to Cape Nuniamo, in Siberia. Over most of the proposed line the water is not more than fifteen feet deep, and during nine months of the year it is solid ice. It is reported that Russian, French, and American capitalists are prepared to invest in the scheme. The difficulties are, however, various. Russia is concerned about the neutralization of such a tunnel in case of war. And there is no even approximate estimation as to the amount of produce and manufactures likely to be transported through such a tunnel.

#### A STATUE OF WASHINGTON IN LONDON.

An instance of the progress of civilization, and of the growing friendliness between England and the United States is the proposal by a committee of Englishmen to erect a statue to the memory of George Washington in London. The committee includes such men as the Archdeacon of London, and the assistant manager of The Times. The proposal is said to be as yet "embryonic," but all approached on the subject have manifested keen interest.

#### A MUSEUM OF LITERATURE.

Mr. J. C. Young, of Minneapolis, has conceived of a unique plan for a library. He proposes to place under one roof in the city of Minneapolis all the best books of the living writers of every country, no matter in what language written. He will have every volume inscribed by the author in a characteristic manner. Mr. Young has now four assistants. He has devoted many of his best years to work and foreign travel for the purpose of adding to his collection. It will be a museum of literature rather than a library. The completion of the plan will depend on the prolongation of the life of its projector.