

The World's Progress.



THE STEAM-SLED LINE OF THE YUKON RIVER.

STEAM SNOW-SLEDS.

A company has been organized in Chicago to operate a steam snow-sled line between St. Michael's and Dawson City, Alaska, a distance of 1,885 miles. It is proposed to carry both passengers and freight, and the first locomotive is now under construction in Chicago. It is claimed that a train can be propelled across the snow and ice carrying 100,000 pounds of merchandise, or 250 passengers.

The fuel used in the locomotive and for heating purposes will be wood, which grows in abundance all through that country. The steering gear is a chain attached to the forward sleds of the locomotive, and running over a wheel in the pilot-room, and is operated by the pilot, the same as on a steamer. The weight of the locomotive rests on the sleigh-runners, independent of the drivers. The drive-wheels are each on an independent axle, are driven by separate engines, and play in a sprocket, which will allow them to drop into low places or rise over small obstructions without disturbing the equilibrium of the locomotive.

To most readers the prospect looks like an impossible one. The projectors admit that they are to face many serious obstacles, but seem confident of success. If the plan should prove to be feasible, a great problem in transportation would be solved. — *Eppworth Herald*.

NO BACKDOWN.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is said to be an inascible old gentleman who sometimes says more than he means. Perhaps that was the case when he blurted out the ugly word of war against Russia, France, and Germany in the event of certain contingencies affecting England's trade in the Far East. The belligerent threat was echoed in all the music halls by the unthinking rabble, who little know what war means. The calmer utterance of Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords took somewhat the edge off this truculent threat. While standing firmly by Britain's treaty rights, which he declared were being thoroughly safeguarded, the noble marquis read a lesson to the jingos who wish to settle England's foreign policy by means of music hall ditties. Conscious strength and conscious right never bluster. Britons do not need to imitate the government by mob that has plunged France into more than one dreadful war, and has wrecked so many ministries.

We heard it said that Britain had backed down from her demand that Talien Wan shall be a free port. Lord Salisbury, in the House of Lords said: "I have received spontaneous assurances from the Russian Government that any port they opened in China will be open to free commerce. The German Government went further, and were more