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The White Empresses of the Pacific

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FROM the West to the East; to the East by way of the West—such has been the ambition of numberless navigators and discoverers from the middle of the Dark Ages down to the present day. It inspired Columbus to embark upon that fateful voyage which opened out the vistas of a New World; and in later time it sent forth the brave sailors who pushed their way northward up the western coast of the American continent and made the discovery of British Columbia. The old ambition still lives, and finds expression in the growing inter-communication between the rich new countries of Western America and the ancient lands of the Orient across the Pacific. And this month one of the most striking proofs of its existence is to be supplied by the action of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in sending two new floating palaces round the world to find their home in Vancouver.

The "C. P. R."—to employ the everyday term in use throughout this land—is no longer at hand at forging links of trade and transportation between the Orient and Western Canada. For nearly a generation its "Empresses" have been crossing the northern part of the Pacific at regular intervals, and during that time the arrival or departure from Burrard Inlet of the Empress of Japan or the Empress of India, boats of 6,000 tons register, has been looked

upon as an event. But we are now entering upon a day of greater things, the Empress of Russia, now almost due in the Inlet, and the Empress of Asia, which is expected to arrive in a few months, are boats of 10,850



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