

There are evidences on the American side that next year will witness great activity in railway building. Already the coming season's output of rolling mills has been purchased, and there will, no doubt, be many new mills started. The Pacific coast will especially be the scene of large operations, as it is pretty well understood that several of the great railway corporations outside of the U. S. Northern Pacific is now constructing the switch-back over the Cascade division to Tacoma, which work will also be prosecuted on the long tunnel. By securing a line of its own terminals it will be freed from the present dictation of the O. R. & N. Co. a system, which changes local rates over its line from Walla Walla to the coast, and also from the Northern Pacific will also put a line of steamers on the route between Tacoma and Victoria. Plans will be made to give shippers rates that will compare successfully with any other route. This is itself would be of great advantage to Victoria. The Northern Pacific is a better operating system than is seeking for the Puget Sound trade. The accomplishing of the above would be prohibitory to the O. R. & N. Co., and they have not been idle, having had surveys in the field during the past summer. The Northern Pacific company have been pushing the construction of their line from Omaha through Nebraska and Wyoming, the direction being northwesterly to Ontario, in Idaho, through the mountains by a practicable route to a connection with the Oregon and Pacific coast. This would furnish the most direct route between Chicago and the Pacific coast, and direct rail connection with Portland and San Francisco, and by acting in concert with the O. R. & N. Co. would provide the shortest line between the American east and Puget Sound. This would bring rail communication to the coast, and the steamer run from Victoria. In the event of this transcontinental line being completed, and the route to the coast, it will be, it would compel the Northern Pacific to draw still nearer to the seaboard. It has long been the contention of those who have watched the various moves that have been made on the railway chess-board, and who have acquainted themselves with the motives of the Northern Pacific most ultimately bring it to a termination at Ship Harbor on Puget Island, in an almost direct line with Victoria. This would furnish a terminus of magnificent facilities, and would be a great advantage to the harbor at all seasons, as its terminus would then be an hour's steamer run from Victoria. While all this is being done, and various other enterprises are eager to see an accomplished fact, Victoria is waiting quietly, and with nervous hands, for the completion of these transcontinental railways ready to carry her traffic, and who will be in a position to successfully compete for business which she so firmly holds, but which is being looked after by other centers. The terminus of these great railway lines is being at her door, and she has many other ways, benefit Victoria, and there is little cause to be nervous about her future progress. The answer that Sir James made when he returned to Victoria, and his explanation that our fair city, in its advantageous position, will in a very large measure be benefited.

FRANCE, CHINA AND THE POPE. It was and is the desire of the Celestial government that a papal delegate should be accredited to Peking, and a Chinese ambassador sent to the Vatican. As an English exchange points out, Pope Leo has been asked to accede to the proposed relations, and actually nominated Monsignor Agliardi as his representative. M. De Freymont, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, has taken up the matter in view, and that was to get rid of the French protectorate over the Roman Catholics who make up the bulk of the Chinese population in the province. The struggle will not be between Paris and Peking. The imperial government has determined that the Chinese protectorate shall be abolished. While it has existed, every Roman Catholic missionary entering the Chinese Empire had to be bound by the French protectorate, no matter what his nationality. According to the arrangement which is soon to come into force, French missionaries will only be allowed to remain in the province until the Metropolitan has given his approval. All missionaries of other countries seeking passports must obtain them through their respective consuls. France can continue to protect French citizens, and is perfectly free to exercise its responsibility for others admitted. Furthermore, an ambassador will be nominated to the Vatican, and not even M. De Freymont, who is in charge of the negotiations, can be removed without his consent. There has been created in one of the imperial capitals, is felt to be an inconvenience. There has been created in one of the imperial capitals, is felt to be an inconvenience. There has been created in one of the imperial capitals, is felt to be an inconvenience.

PRINCE WALDEMAR. Prince Waldemar, who has been selected by the Grand Sovereign as the successor of Prince Alexander in the sovereignty of Bulgaria, is the third son of the king of Denmark. It is difficult to see what qualities in him have led to his selection to so important and responsible a position. Probably the fact that he is allied to the majority of the reigning powers of Europe either by birth or marriage, has much to do with his selection. He is regarded generally as a "good looking" young man, and is the possessor of the brilliant traits which characterize his predecessor. The story of the late life of his father is a sad one, and it is imperishably engrained in the minds of the Bulgarian people justifies his selection to the throne. He is a young man, and his father's death was a tragedy to the Bulgarian people. He is a young man, and his father's death was a tragedy to the Bulgarian people. He is a young man, and his father's death was a tragedy to the Bulgarian people.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

Bulgaria's Antipathy to Russia.

The Volunteers' Grievances Against the War Office. Extension of Woolwich Arsenal—Ireland's Naphtha Spring—A Spanish Girl's Noble Deed.

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A SPANISH GIRL'S NOBLE DEED.

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THE HUCK BYLAW CASE.

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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DELAID DISPATCHES.

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QUEBEC.

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