

# PLANS TO OPEN COAST LINE OF THE ST. PAUL SYSTEM.

Golden Spike to Be Driven About April 2 and Road Will Be Open for Traffic by July 1.

Arrangements for driving the golden spike which will signify the completion of construction work on the Pacific coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway have been made, with the intention of having the ceremony take place at Gold Creek, Wash., April 2. A. J. Earling, president of the road, is in the west closing the details.

This will mark the beginning of a new era for the St. Paul, which thenceforth will take its place among the transcontinental railroads, after expending more than \$100,000,000 in two years on approximately 1,500 miles of new line, from Evarts, S. D., to Tacoma and Seattle. The line west of the Missouri river is to be operated under the name of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound railway, with a separate set of officers, many of whom, however, are also officials of the parent company.

Considerable ballasting remains to be done, and the roadbed must settle thoroughly before regular train service can be established with safety, which will be about July 1.

One of the most important engineering features on the new line, which is remarkable for the number of bridges and tunnels, was completed recently when the bridge over the Columbia river at Beverly, Wash., was made ready for service. The bridge is nearly a mile in length, including the approaches, the steel structure spanning 2,800 feet.

The interstate commerce commission