

# ST. PAUL'S PACIFIC LINE FORMALLY AUTHORIZED

## Directors Arrange to Begin 1,500-Mile Extension at Once.

### PLENTY OF MONEY IN HAND

#### Undertaking Is the Largest of Its Kind In This Country for Many Years.

The extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway to the Pacific Coast was formally authorized at a meeting of the Directors yesterday. Official announcement of the fact was made after the meeting. The report had long been afloat that the road would extend to the Pacific, and recently steps were taken that practically disclosed the connection of the St. Paul with certain railroad projects that were regarded as being part of the St. Paul's scheme for a Pacific Coast extension.

The new line to be built by the St. Paul will run from Evarts, S. D., the present Western terminus of the St. Paul, to Seattle and Tacoma. The total distance to be covered by the extension is about 1,500 miles.

The Directors, in addition to authorizing the building of this line, arranged for its immediate construction. An officer of the company said yesterday that so far no steps had been taken to finance the undertaking. The St. Paul has large funds which it can use for the work to be done in the immediate future. It was said yesterday that the definite financing of the new line might not be undertaken until it was completed. It is probable that the work will require two years, at least.

There is now in the treasury of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad \$25,000,000 of unissued stock, which was originally authorized with this Pacific Coast extension in view. The Directors are free to issue this stock at any time, but, in view of yesterday's statement by the officers of the road, this stock will probably be retained in the treasury indefinitely.

The surveys for the new line were made more than three years ago. Much additional work in planning the line has been done since, and recently several companies were incorporated, as it now turns out, to construct parts of the extension. The Pacific Railway was one. This company recently applied to the City Council of Seattle for permission to build terminals at that place. The plans for the St. Paul's Pacific Coast extension have been quietly progressing for many months. Land has been acquired for terminals at various points, including Seattle and Tacoma.

From Evarts, S. D., the new line will run through that State and through Montana and Idaho to Wallula, in the southeastern portion of the State of Washington. Here connection will be made with the projected Pacific Railway, which will run from Seattle southward through Tacoma to the Columbia River, and along that river to Wallula. The cost of the extension is estimated at about \$50,000,000.

This extension of the St. Paul Road is the largest single piece of railroad construction that has been undertaken in the United States in many years. Its length is exceeded by that of the Grand Trunk Pacific line, which is to run from Eastern Canada to the Pacific.

The construction of a line to the Pacific Coast by the St. Paul Railroad brings a new and important factor into the Northwestern railroad situation. It adds one more to the direct lines from the great lakes to the Pacific Coast. The St. Paul now reaches the coast over the tracks of the Union Pacific, with which road it has for a considerable period had a traffic agreement. The opinion in railroad circles, however, is that the extension of the St. Paul to the Pacific will not necessarily mean serious competition with existing lines. The Northwest country is developing rapidly, and the new lines of the St. Paul will open up territory a portion, at least, of which is not extensively served by existing lines.

## MAY INCREASE DIVIDEND.

### Lackawanna Directors Will Hold Their Regular Meeting To-day.

The Directors of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad will hold their regular monthly meeting to-day, and it is expected that they will act on the quarterly dividend on the company's stock payable in January. Besides the regular quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent. it was said in Wall Street yesterday that an extra dividend would probably be paid.

At this time last year the Directors declared an extra dividend of 10 per cent. A little later they increased the regular quarterly dividend from 1¼ per cent. to 2½ per cent., the present rate.