

RELAXING.

A Slight Fall in the Prices of all Cereals at Chicago Yesterday.

WHEAT DECIDEDLY WEAKER.

Corn and Oats Experience a Decline Corresponding with the Main Grain.

PROVISIONS LOWER BUT FIRM.

Little Interest in the Speculative Trade on Wall Street.

CHICAGO.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.] CHICAGO, July 18.—The anticipated strike of telegraph operators, which would in a measure shut off communication with the speculative world outside, has checked the advancing tendency on 'change, causing dull and drooping markets to-day. Long holders were disposed to sell out and prices under heavy offerings declined irregularly to the close, as promised in yesterday's dispatches. Should telegraph communication continue without interruption, the holders of to-day would be inclined to buy back again, and the early effect would be to establish a higher range of prices, but should the strike, as is now expected, be precipitated to-morrow, the result must be a further decline. Buyers are holding off awaiting developments. Provisions are so sensitive to every influence that they showed the effect of this uncertainty in a marked degree, otherwise there would have been a continuance of yesterday's buoyancy. At the opening there was a brisk advance in pork, but not any in lard, brokers began selling, and as Bessley and Adam both seemed liberally supplied with orders to unload, the whisper went around that Armour was selling out, and this with the strike announced to come off at once, served to create a stampede which sent September pork down to \$14.20, where buyers stopped, and ran it up to \$14.55. The receipts of hogs are still light—10,000 to-day—and the shipping demand is fairly good, with more inquiry among the speculators for the near options, than for deferred futures. The crowd are so much rattled by the complications of strikes and German embargoes that it is hard to reflect the feeling intelligently. Wheat suffered a loss of 1 1/2c. Corn likewise started on the down grade and closed at about inside figures, although after 2:30 o'clock there was considerable inquiry among crib traders for August corn and some improvement in the bidding. The receipts of grain to-day were 27 cars of wheat, 318 of corn, and 185 of oats, a considerable decrease from yesterday. The shipments reported were 3,800 bushels of wheat, 164 bushels of corn and 66,000 bushels of oats. The charters were 44,000 bushels wheat and 156,000 bushels corn. On the board a large speculative business was transacted in wheat. The feeling was considerably unsettled, accompanied with a lower range of prices. The market opened about 1/2c lower, but the offerings were soon increased, and under a heavy pressure to sell brought to bear upon the market prices declined with some fluctuations 1 1/2c additional, fluctuated but slightly and finally closed easy and 1 1/2c lower than yesterday. The weakness was attributed to a falling off in the demand, shorts having covered pretty freely, besides the depression in provisions and the weakness in corn, all contributed towards weakening the feeling. August closed on the board at \$1.03 3/4, September at \$1.05 1/2. Corn ruled considerably lower. An active speculative business was transacted in this market, but the shipping demand was not at all urgent; in fact the demand from shippers was more limited than usual, and lower prices alone tempted them to buy. The receipts continue quite free and operators calculated on increased arrivals. The liberal decline in the lower grades of corn the past two or three days, especially for rejected, which to-day was fully 9c below the price of No. 2, and the continued liberal offerings of the lower grades, has a depressing effect on the speculative trade. The decline in provisions reacted somewhat upon the corn market. On the whole there was more pressure to sell, and the offerings were liberal. The market opened about 1/2c lower and declined to a point 1 1/2c lower than closing figures on 'change yesterday, and finally closed within a 1/2c of the price reached with all futures under \$1 c. No. 2 cash and July oats were in good speculative demand, evidently from shorts. The offerings were meager and prices improved. The deferred futures were quiet and tame. They did not share in the improvement, the crop prospects probably holding them back. Sample lots of choice white oats sold well and ruled firm, but common grades were dull and easy. No. 2 cash advanced from 33 1/2c to 33c. July ranged 1c higher. Other futures were quiet and a trifle below the closings of yesterday. Rye was firm. The offerings were light and under a fair demand No. 2 cash sold at 55 1/2c, which was 1/2c advance. Future deliveries were firm with July 1/2c higher and deferred futures without essential change. Offerings generally small. In barley there was a sale or two by sample, but otherwise there was no trading. The market remains neglected. Cash trading is over until new barley comes in, and there was no disposition to trade on the new crop. All the surroundings of the provision market at the opening were favorable for a stronger market. The receipts of hogs were light and prices were quoted 15c to 25c higher per 100 pounds, and the reports from Liverpool showed a stronger feeling in that quarter, accompanied with an advance of 1s 6d in lard and 6d to 1s in bacon. The demand at the opening was fairly active and prices were advanced slightly

on all the leading descriptions. A weaker feeling set in, the offerings were largely increased and prices subject to recent fluctuations, declined rapidly to the inside range. Toward the close a steadier feeling was developed, but trading was only moderately active and only a small portion of the decline in prices was recovered. The eastern markets were without material change. The receipts of product were comparatively light and shipments of all kinds were not so large as during the previous days of the week. Shipping demand only fair, and orders chiefly for small quantities. The market for mess pork showed considerable activity, but the feeling was greatly unsettled, especially about noon. The offerings were few throughout the day, while the demand was active. Operators appeared to be transferring their contracts ahead, and the trade in the more deferred deliveries is increasing.

The market opened quite strong, and prices were advanced 5/10c, but the offerings were largely increased, causing a decidedly weaker feeling and resulting in a gradual reduction of 55c to 65c on the whole range. Toward the close the feeling was a little stronger, though prices fluctuated considerably within the range of 15c to 20c and closed comparatively steady. Shipping demand moderate, and mainly for small lots. Cash in fair demand in a quiet way and quoted at \$14.40 to \$14.65. September ends the day at \$14.5 1/2 sellers. The net decline of the day in this market is 15c to 27 1/2c.

The inquiry for lard was quite active and the offerings were liberal. At the opening the market was stronger and prices were advanced 2 1/2c to 3c per 100 pounds. The offerings, however, exceeded the demand, and a weaker feeling set in accompanied with a reduction in prices of 15c to 20c. During the latter part of the session a steadier feeling prevailed, and prices rallied 5c to 10c, and closed comparatively steady. Shipping demand moderate. Cash in fair request and quotable at \$8.80 to \$8.95. September and October, as in pork, were the favorite options. July and August were held essentially at cash figures. The close was 7 1/2c to 2 1/2c under yesterday.

NEW YORK.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.] NEW YORK, July 18.—The rally in stocks this morning was of short duration, and prices were soon on the down grade again. The Vanderbilts were, as usual, found without any support, and free selling carried New York Central below 115. Michigan Central declined 2 per cent., and Canada Southern fell from 59 1/2 to 56 1/2. The Western Union hovered around 80 the greater part of the day. The hour for the expected strike was changed from high noon to 2 o'clock, but at 3 p. m. all seemed serene, and business progressing as usual. The granger stocks changed but little. St. Paul continued to roll up large earnings. The increase for the second week of July is \$81,000. Northwestern for the same time gains \$21,000. The business of the different lines cuts no figure in Wall street at present. There is hardly any demand for stocks from any quarter, and until they reach a point where buyers will be tempted to take hold we cannot expect any change for the better. The Northern Pacific seems to be held up by main strength, and a good deal of muscle seems necessary to maintain them. Canadian Pacific went all to pieces during the evening. The closing prices this evening, as a general thing, are lower than the final sales of yesterday. The market was steady at the end, with no particular feature, and the situation unchanged.

The Kiernan News Letter says: "Strong purchases, some new support, increasing outside orders to buy and favorable crop reports were among the strengthening influences early. Large investment purchases are reported. Good stocks are considered cheap. It is thought a settlement of the telegraph troubles would greatly benefit the market. It looks as if the Western Union company has prepared to partly accede to the demands of its employees, and did not want the concession to have a baneful effect on its stock. A Lackawanna director is reported as saying that the issue of the New York & Lackawanna bonds will be limited to \$5,000,000 at present. It is thought the money may be needed to liquidate the floating debt incurred in operating the road. The bulls say the extension is doing well. It is said that the bears on the New York Central have been trying to scare out foreign holders, especially the English. Several hundred shares were sold at 113 1/2. Several parties are reported bullish on St. Paul. There is said to be no change of an immediate issue of stock. Heath was among the large buyers of Erie, taking 5,000 shares. Encouraging crop reports held Manitoba and stocks of other roads in the northwest. The Oregon Transcontinental did not show the amount of stock outstanding. It is stated the reported issue of West Shore terminal bonds will be made by another company, to be called the West Shore Terminal company, said contemplated issue to be \$12,000,000, guaranteed by the West Shore. The transactions to-day were 301,500 shares. It is thought that Gould was among the buyers.

The Western Union directors considered the demands of the telegraphers to-day. It is officially announced that the directors favor a few per cent. advance in salaries and a reduction of the hours of work. An officer of the company said that the earnings for fifteen days of July were \$986,000 and the company during the present year has been earning 10 per cent. dividend. It is generally believed by knowing persons outside Wall street that the Western Union will not agree to the terms of the operators, and that the latter will not accept the first proposition of the company. If there is a strike the Western Union may try to get along without the strikers long enough to ascertain the situation at its worst, and what should be done under the circumstances.

It was rumored that a new bull pool has been organized in St. Paul. It is alleged to have secured a large amount of stocks below 102 and to contemplate putting the price above 105. Operators supposed to be identified with the pool say there is no

danger of an immediate issue of St. Paul stock. The earnings of the road will provide for the payment of interest on dividends, and judging from present indications, will have a larger surplus than was shown at the end of last year. For six months of the fiscal year St. Paul has earned very near as much on its stocks as the Northwestern has earned upon its issue.

CASUALTIES.

A BLAZE OF SMALL DIMENSIONS AT FAIRBAULT YESTERDAY.

Another Destructive Tornado in Missouri—A Train Goes Through an Open Switch in Tennessee—Gas Works Explosion—Other Accidents.

FIRE AT FAIRBAULT.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.] FAIRBAULT, Minn., July 18.—The large barn of H. C. Howard was entirely consumed by fire at 7 p. m. to-day. The flames had burst through the roof when discovered. One horse was burned to death. Loss about \$1,000 over insurance; insured by C. L. Lowell \$1,000 on building and \$100 on contents. C. A. Wood lost \$500 worth of agricultural implements. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have been caused by small children playing with matches in the basement. The adjoining property was saved by the hard work of the firemen.

EXPRESS TRAIN OFF AN OPEN SWITCH AT FULL SPEED.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 18.—About 11 o'clock this morning a mail east of the city at the zinc works, the eastern bound express train, going at full speed, was thrown from the main track by a misplaced switch. The train struck four coal cars on a side track, demolishing them. The engine jumped the track and ran into the main building of the works just erected by the East Tennessee Valley Zinc company, tearing away the whole side of the building and playing havoc with the machinery. The locomotive engine ran into the stationary engine of the zinc company, demolishing the latter completely, and the locomotive and tender turned over. The mail cars were torn to pieces and the express car damaged. The damage to the railroad company is about \$10,000, and the damage to the zinc company about \$6,000. The railway company offers a large reward for the apprehension of the second rail who broke the lock and changed the switch.

BRABEMAN KILLED.

MILWAUKEE, July 18.—Thomas Drumbray, brakeman on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, was instantly killed to-night by falling between two cars of freight, and being crushed beneath the wheels. He was 39 years old and leaves a wife and three children.

FIRES.

LANCASHIRE, Mo., July 18.—The iron and brass foundry of Clark & Sarester at Wyandotte, Kas., burned about midnight. Loss on building, \$4,000; machinery, \$6,000. Light insurance.

CAPE VINCENT, N. Y., July 18.—Scrabell's brewery burned this morning with hundreds of barrels of lager, ale and porter. Fifteen hundred bushels of malt were destroyed. Loss, \$20,000; no insurance.

A MISSOURI STORM.

ST. LOUIS, July 18.—Forthwest Missouri was visited by a severe thunder storm last evening. W. P. Miller's large barn and slaughter house at Carthage was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Loss \$2,000; no insurance. Several stables and barns were also struck by lightning and destroyed. At Marshall the storm of wind and rain was very severe, trees uprooted, fences leveled, corn and oats blown flat. At Warrensburg the Church of God, a new structure, was blown over by the tornado, stock was killed by lightning and about a mile of telegraph wire and poles destroyed. Joplin was also visited by the storm, but the damage was slight.

DRIVING ACCIDENT.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 18.—William R. Travers, a banker of New York, was driving with his son in a gig to Newport this morning when the axle broke and both were thrown out and hurt about the head.

GAZ WORKS EXPLOSION.

YONKERS, N. Y., July 18.—An explosion to-day seriously damaged the Yonkers Gaslight works and injured several persons.

CRIMES.

FATALLY AVENGED HIS SISTER.

PITTSBURGH, July 18.—Charles Seitz, a paper hanger in Allegheny City, fatally shot Dr. G. W. Langfelt to-night at the latter's home in Bellevue, seven miles from the city. Langfelt was engaged to Seitz's sister for several years, but a short time ago broke the engagement, without explanation, and this so enraged Seitz that to-day he borrowed a revolver and went down to Bellevue and shot Langfelt on sight.

A DESPERATE SUICIDE.

PHILADELPHIA, July 18.—Sophia Warman, nineteen years of age, who in April last nearly succeeded in killing herself with a revolver, almost severed her head from her body to-day with a razor. She was ruined under a promise of marriage.

A BOLD BANK ROBBERY.

DETROIT, July 18.—A sneak thief bank robbery took place at Coldwater this afternoon. While George Star, cashier of the National bank, was counting a package of bills handed him by one of two confederates, the other skipped into the safe and stole a valuable package of jewelry belonging to H. C. Lewis, president of the bank. The thieves ran three blocks, jumped into a carriage in waiting and drove off at breakneck speed. They were pursued by two officers and overtaken a mile from the town, but presenting four revolvers to the officers the latter beat a retreat.

Ocean Steamships.

HAMBURG, July 18.—Arrived: The steamer Friega from New York.

LONDON, July 18.—Arrived out: The steamers "The Queen" and Holland from New York.

NEW YORK, July 18.—Arrived: The steamers Marengo from Hull, Seythia from Liverpool, St. Germaine from Havre and State of Nevada from Glasgow.

LONDON, July 18.—Arrived out: The steamer Rhineland from New York.

BOSTON, July 18.—Arrived: The Hlyrian from Liverpool and Phenician from Glasgow.

The journeyman plasterers are holding a national convention at Cincinnati.

THE BEST RECORD BEATEN

Hanlan Wins the Ogdensburg Scull Race in the Quickest Time Ever Made in Four Miles With Turn—An Easy Victory and a Big Sell on the Spectators—The Chicago Races—Turf Sports and Base Ball.

The Hanlan-Ross Race.

ODGENSBURG, N. Y., July 18.—The Hanlan-Ross race was started by the referee, John Eastis, of Boston, at 6:59 p. m. after many had despaired of having the race on account of the high wind that prevailed all day. Ross won the choice and selected the outside course explaining, that he was afraid the small boats would interfere with him. Hanlan led off easily and kept a length ahead through the first mile, rowing thirty-one strokes to Ross' thirty. At the one and three-quarter mile flag Hanlan stopped rowing and then made 20 strokes to Ross' twenty-eight and soon was three lengths ahead. Hanlan made the turn in seven minutes, twelve lengths ahead of Ross. On the third mile Hanlan slowed up and took a drink of water. In response to a cheer from the press boat Hanlan cried out "It's lonesome out here." Ross appeared blown at this time and George Lee pulled alongside and talked to him. Hanlan finished the four miles with an easy stroke, just as Ross reached the three and three-fourths flag.

Official time: Four miles—Hanlan twenty-seven minutes fifty-seven and one half seconds; Ross twenty-eight minutes and forty-five seconds. Hanlan was fully a quarter of a mile ahead and made the fastest time on record for the distance with the turn.

The previous record was four miles and turn by Mike P. Davis, of Portland, Me., at Silver Lake, Oct. 8, 1878, which was twenty-eight minutes and six and three-fourths seconds, against Patsey Regan, who was killed by the cars.

John Davis of Toronto, was judge for Hanlan, and Charles E. Courtney for Ross. Hanlan asked as a favor that Ross would choose some other judge, but he declined to do so.

Hanlan came in so far ahead that the majority of the 15,000 people on the water here, who saw the race, supposed that Ross was the winner, and were pulling together, were the contestants, and that Ross had won the race. This report was telegraphed all over the country and an hour after the race the question was asked on the streets and at headquarters, "who won the race?" The official signals were wrongly given for some reason. As Hanlan drew up to the referee's boat and heard the official announcement, he exclaimed, pointing to Courtney, "Send out that fellow and I'll make an exhibition of him." Hanlan then rowed over to Ross and shook hands.

The Associated Press time keeper made Hanlan's four miles, twenty-seven minutes and eight seconds, and Ross' twenty-eight minutes and ten seconds. Courtney made Hanlan's time twenty-seven minutes and two seconds. Hanlan says the Associated Press time is correct.

Hanlan was introduced to a large crowd in front of the headquarters by Referee Eastis. He made a brief speech, saying he had rowed to win and did the best he could, as he had always done, and felt proud of having made the best four mile time on record.

The pools averaged four to one on Hanlan throughout the day. The race was an easy victory for Hanlan. Nothing had been heard this evening of any challenge from Courtney. The water was quite rough and at times the swell from the police boat washed over Hanlan's bow, causing a loss of fifty seconds. The race was admirably managed throughout and the crowd behaved excellently.

Hanlan and Courtney.

ODGENSBURG, N. Y., July 18.—It is said Hanlan approached Courtney in headquarters this morning. A bad-tempered verbal row followed, in which Hanlan is said to have displayed unusual bitterness. He offered to put up \$5,000 and row Courtney a square race on any body of water in America. Courtney kept cool and asked Hanlan how much he had to pay for putting his boat at Chautauqua and exhibiting \$1,000 offered to bet that he would crowd Hanlan to faster time at Watkins than he ever made before.

Courtney said if Hanlan did not hit Courtney's boat at Chautauqua, his (Hanlan's) money did it. Hanlan said Courtney was a liar and a thief. Wallace Ross having appointed Courtney as his judge in the race Hanlan has made a formal protest to the committee against Courtney acting in that capacity.

The Chicago Races.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.] CHICAGO, July 18.—The trotting to-day was the most interesting of the meeting. In the 2:30 class Tony Newell, although having an easy thing, was driven to accommodate the speed of the other horses, and made an exciting race. His competitors were nearly evenly matched, Geo. V. taking second money, Western third, and Brown Wilkes fourth. Time 2:24 1/2, 2:24, 2:23 1/2.

The 2:21 class was a horse race in every respect, closely contested, all being bunched throughout each and every heat. Joe Bunker, largely the favorite, when brought out for the first heat, showed so poorly when being warmed up that many of his backers commenced hedging before the start was made. He appeared sore and, instead, breaking from a trot into a pace when going at a 2:30 gait. The result showed that it was an off day for the son of George Wilkes. The race was between Overman and Clemmie G. in the lead, closely followed by Bunker, Wilson and Buzz Medium. The finish in each heat was very close for first, second, third and fourth places, and it was with difficulty at times for the judges to place them properly. Overman won all the heats, and each by a short neck only, twice from Clemmie G. and the last from Wilson. Time, 2:19 1/2, 2:20. John Splan drove Wilson in the race, and it is rumored that a price has been made on him with a view of his sale to the Midway stable. He is a dark bay gelding of fine size, and threatened with great speed. His performance to-day was the best he ever made in a race.

The starters in the 2:25 class were Catchfly, Sleepy Joe, Ira G. and Will Benham. The daughter of Administrator won handsily, but the race between the others for a place was hot and exciting. Time, 2:20 1/2, 2:20, 2:20.

The starters for to-morrow are: In the 3:00 class, Index, Majolica, Phallas and Felix, and in the 2:20 pacing class are Richball, Westmont, Bessie M. and Lone Jack. In the first Majolica is selling in the pools to-night at \$60 against \$13 for the field. Richball is the favorite

in the pacing race at \$100 to \$40 for Westmont, and \$10 for the field. The special to-morrow is for the pacer Johnson to beat the best record at that gait, 2:11 1/2, and strange as it may appear, the horse is selling in the pools as fast as they can be rattled off at \$100 to \$60 that time could be beaten. The opinions of a majority of horsemen here are that with a good day and dry track the records after to-morrow will show there is a faster horse than ever was Little Brown Jug or Mand S.

[Western Associated Press.]

CHICAGO, July 18.—Fourth day of the Chicago Driving Park, summer trotting meeting. The day was bright and warm, the track fast, the attendance large and the races exciting, the favorites winning in two of the three races.

Purse \$2,500, for 2:30 class, \$500 extra to beat 2:22. Tony Newell was a strong favorite, and won with ease in three straight heats.

CHICAGO, July 18.—The telegraph operators held themselves in readiness to quit work all day, but awaited news from the general committee of the brotherhood in session at New York. No orders or notification of the decision of the company as to their demands being received, nothing was done. It is now thought the strike will occur to-morrow morning. The feeling has been worked up to high pitch, and the operators are nearly unanimous. A large meeting, attended by 350 telegraphers, was held at the headquarters of the brotherhood, Ulich's hall, this evening. Forty new members were admitted. The proceedings were secret. The Knights of Labor, of which the brotherhood is a branch, promises support and aid.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.] CHICAGO, July 18.—"How much money have you got to carry on a strike?" was asked of a brotherhood man to-day. "All we want," he replied, "I can't give you the figures, but we are well provided for and shall not suffer for money. If we have to work we can go at something else. Our business is telegraphing, but if we don't know anything else we can learn. There will be no necessity for it, however. We have the most positive assurance that all the money we require will be forthcoming."

"We have the sympathy of the board of trade," said Mr. A. J. Morris, the president of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers, "and I shall be sorry if it becomes necessary for us to make them suffer. The light is one of principle and must be made. There are no developments so far to-day. I cannot say positively that we shall go out this morning. We are ready to stop at a moment's notice, and are only waiting for the word. There are a large number of firms and private corporations in the city whose telegraphic business is transacted on wires under their own control. The greater number of these firms are brokers and merchants whose transactions require special expedition. Most of them are on the board of trade. There are two houses which communicate with their New York correspondents over wires leased from the telegraph companies. These wires are leased under special contracts, which strictly define the exact nature and scope of their use in these particular instances. The annual rental paid for these wires, the largest in the country, is about \$25 a mile. Operators are furnished by the telegraph companies, but are paid by the firm. In addition many houses have short wires, technically called "ponies," running from their offices to the main telegraph offices. Several large packing houses have telegraphic communication with their down town counting rooms, and one or two manufacturing co-operations have lines and operators of their own maintaining connection between their factories and offices. All the newspapers except the evening twinklers are provided with loops by means of which they are brought into direct communication with their correspondents in the Eastern cities. This branch of wholesale telegraphy is a very lucrative part of the business to the companies, and is also of great benefit to the individuals and corporations who patronize it. With the growth of the city and the wide diffusion of its commercial influences, private wires are increasing. The facilities possessed by the telegraph companies for keeping them in order and for building them more cheaply than any one else, operate to preserve the control of these wires to the great telegraph companies. The arrangement, however, works satisfactorily to all parties and its adoption is fast becoming an indispensable condition to success in certain lines of business.

THE OUTLOOK.

NEW YORK, July 18.—A feverish feeling exists in telegraphic circles over the threatened strike. Every person interested is anxiously waiting the result of the meeting of the executive committee of the Western Union directors. The committee of the Brotherhood held a meeting this morning, but what transpired there could not be learned. Cipher dispatches were received by the committee from various parts stating that the operators were in readiness to leave their desks at a moment's notice. W. B. Somerville, of the Western Union company, said to-day there seemed to be little possibility that the company would grant the request and that a strike seemed to be inevitable. The demands were unjust and unreasonable, and if the strike should happen, the company would fight it to the bitter end. W. J. Dealy, manager of the operating room of the Western Union, said he did not believe the strike would be commenced without mature deliberation on the part of the operators. This morning there was an unusually large force at work in the office, numbering between 400 and 700. The ordinary number of absentees was from fifteen to twenty-five; only nine absentees this morning. He said he had at least fifty letters from employees of the company promising to stand by it in the event of a strike. There were twenty-nine chief operators in the office, each one having under him from eighteen to twenty-five men. This morning a canvass was made by these chiefs among the operators to ascertain if possible the real strength of the disaffected portion, and how large a force might be relied on in case of a strike. The first report showed that out of 210 operators twelve were doubtful and nine promised to stand by the company. Later reports indicate that this proportion represented the division of feeling throughout the whole force. The wheatstone operators to a man, Dealy said, promised to stand

THE TELEGRAPHERS.

THE MUCH TALKED OF STRIKE ALREADY BEGUN IN THE EAST.

Meetings of the Dissatisfied Workmen—They Claim to Have All the Funds Needed to Carry Out Their Purpose—A Statement from General Manager Eckert, of the Western Union Company.

Information received by the GLOBE over its special wire up to 3 o'clock this morning is to the effect that the strike of telegraph operators has already commenced in the east, the Western Union having failed to comply with the demands made upon it by the committee. A number of operators in New York and Chicago quit work shortly after midnight, and it is expected that the strike will become general to-day.

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THE OUTLOOK.

NEW YORK, July 18.—A feverish feeling exists in telegraphic circles over the threatened strike. Every person interested is anxiously waiting the result of the meeting of the executive committee of the Western Union directors. The committee of the Brotherhood held a meeting this morning, but what transpired there could not be learned. Cipher dispatches were received by the committee from various parts stating that the operators were in readiness to leave their desks at a moment's notice. W. B. Somerville, of the Western Union company, said to-day there seemed to be little possibility that the company would grant the request and that a strike seemed to be inevitable. The demands were unjust and unreasonable, and if the strike should happen, the company would fight it to the bitter end. W. J. Dealy, manager of the operating room of the Western Union, said he did not believe the strike would be commenced without mature deliberation on the part of the operators. This morning there was an unusually large force at work in the office, numbering between 400 and 700. The ordinary number of absentees was from fifteen to twenty-five; only nine absentees this morning. He said he had at least fifty letters from employees of the company promising to stand by it in the event of a strike. There were twenty-nine chief operators in the office, each one having under him from eighteen to twenty-five men. This morning a canvass was made by these chiefs among the operators to ascertain if possible the real strength of the disaffected portion, and how large a force might be relied on in case of a strike. The first report showed that out of 210 operators twelve were doubtful and nine promised to stand by the company. Later reports indicate that this proportion represented the division of feeling throughout the whole force. The wheatstone operators to a man, Dealy said, promised to stand

by the company in case of a strike. One of the gentlemen who attended the meeting says the sentiment was unanimous in support of the action of Gen. Eckert in his reception of the committee who called on him to present a memorial on Monday last, and that his letter to Col. Clowry, of Chicago, outlining the position and resources of the company, and calling attention to the exorbitant demands of that committee, was likewise discussed and warmly approved. The meeting did not take cognizance, in fact, of the petition, since it was held that whatever complaint the employes of the company might have to make must be made directly by themselves to the company's office. The sub-committee is not empowered, except to make a report next week, Wednesday.

The position of the committee is of some interest as bearing on the temper of the meeting and its future action. Clendenin, one of the members, is president of the Acaedia Coal company, which has extensive mines in Picton, Nova Scotia. The miners there have been a turbulent community, and have frequently indulged in strikes. Clendenin has always managed these crises and never yielded to the demands made through the medium of a strike. Ex-Gov. Cornell and Terry are also said to be opposed to a strike as a means of settling wage difficulties.

The wheatstone is a system of rapid transmission of messages and news. It has been in use many years in England, but is a comparatively new thing in this country. The instrument will do nearly ten times the work that can be done over an ordinary wire. Should the wheatstone operators remain and the other operators strike, telegraph communication would have considerable advantage through the use of this system.

GEN. ECKERT'S VIEWS OF THE DEMAND. NEW YORK, July 18.—The following telegram from Gen. Eckert, general manager of the Western Union telegraph company, explains itself:

NEW YORK, July 17.—R. C. Clowry, General Superintendent, Chicago. A committee of six persons called upon me yesterday and presented a memorial addressed to the Western Union Telegraph company and signed by themselves as members of the executive committee of thirteen telegraphers of the United States and Canada.

This memorial calls upon the company for certain concessions in regard to hours and rates of pay substantially in accordance with the demands of the memorial. I have been familiar since their March meeting in Chicago. The party were asked if they represented the employes of this company and upon replying affirmatively they were requested to furnish a list of such employes. They said they were not able to do, stating that it would require a long time to prepare a list and they were here on expense. They were told that the company did not have a committee or whether its members had authority from the Western Union Telegraph Co.'s employes to present any demand, and that we could not deal with outside parties aside from the questionable manner of presenting such memorials.

One demand is that both sexes shall receive equal pay for equal work, and another is for 15 per cent. increase on all salaries. An operator now receiving a salary of \$50 would by this plan get a larger percentage of increase than one receiving \$80 or \$90, thus widening the difference now existing.

An \$80 operator at present working nine hours daily, twenty-six days per month—equal to 34 18-100 cents per hour—under the schedule in the memorial the same operator would receive \$92 per month for eight hours daily, equal to about 30 per cent. increase in addition to the Sunday allowance just granted under the new rate. This is the smallest increase demanded. In case of Wheatstone operator receiving \$50 per month for twenty-six working days equal to 21 and 36-100 cents per hour, the proposed schedule would give him 41 and 40-100 cents per hour, an increase of over 94 per cent. Another demand is that line men shall be allowed two days pay for Sunday work and that \$65 shall be the lowest rate of pay regardless of location or importance of service and that the duties of line men shall be confined to legitimate work.

Nothing is mentioned about the duties of other classes being restricted to their particular line of employment, but if such concession were allowed one class, there is no reason for withholding it from others