

ERIE GIVES UP C., H. & D SOLD BACK TO MORGAN.

Trunk Line Officials Not Satisfied with Recent Purchase. The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway Company, recently sold by J. P. Morgan & Co. to the Erie, was sold back to the banking firm by the Erie yesterday.

The following statement was issued from the office of President Underwood of the Erie after a meeting of the board of directors: It having appeared to the board of directors of the Erie Railroad Company that, under existing contracts, the purchase of the common stock of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway Company might interfere with the future development of its own railroad, the board of directors voted unanimously to accept the offer of J. P. Morgan & Co. to purchase the common stock of the Erie Railroad from all owners, and to issue a new bond issue to the amount of \$12,000,000 convertible into common stock at the option of the Erie.

In the latter part of September it was announced that J. P. Morgan & Co. had bought from the H. B. Hollins Syndicate the subscription rights to 56,000 of the 65,000 shares of Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton, held in a voting trust, at 150. A few days later came the announcement that the Erie had decided to purchase this stock from the Morgan firm.

At that time there was manifest some opposition to the taking over of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton by the Erie, and Wall Street heard that President Underwood himself did not believe entirely in the properties. Money actually was paid over by the Erie, however, and all arrangements were made to finance this purchase by the sale of \$12,000,000 of the 4 per cent bonds of 1902.

A trip of inspection was made by President Underwood of the Erie and several of the vice-presidents, accompanied by Russell Harding, of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton. At that time, it was learned that some of the companies controlled by the Erie, and Wall Street would not especially benefit the Erie. Mr. Morgan also looked into the properties of the Erie.

The results of these investigations, it was said, convinced Mr. Morgan and the Erie officials that the carrying out of the bargain would do great harm to the Erie. Contracts were discovered, it was said, conveying rights to outside companies which the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton was supposed to enjoy. The acquisition of the Chicago, Cincinnati and Louisville Railroad by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton and that road's guarantee of the dividends on the Pere Marquette stock were viewed with much disfavor. The traffic arrangement made by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton with the Detroit, Toledo and Iron-ore Company, also was viewed with disfavor.

Another Erie man decided that "the goods delivered were not up to sample." Mr. Morgan decided the same thing, and attended the monthly meeting of the Erie board to sell the Erie stock. It was expected that Mr. Morgan would make an offer to take back the shares of Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton stock, thus releasing the Erie from its part of the bargain. It was expected that Mr. Morgan would make an offer to take back the shares of Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton stock, thus releasing the Erie from its part of the bargain.

Justice Fitzgerald, of the Supreme Court, yesterday granted an attachment for \$10,000 against the property of Thomas C. Duncan, of Union, S. C., in favor of Daniel A. Davis, on three notes made by the Union Cotton Mills and Indorsed by Duncan. Justice Fitzgerald also granted an attachment for \$10,000 against the property of Albert R. Brown, of New York, on notes and for merchandise. The attachment was granted on the ground that Brown was a non-resident.

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DENOUNCED BY GERMANY. "BRANCH IS BETTER OFF."

TREATY EXPIRES MARCH 1. Tariff War Not to Follow Failure of Reciprocity Agreement. (From the Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Nov. 29.—The German Ambassador called at the State Department to-day and gave formal notice to the Secretary of State of Germany's intention to terminate the reciprocity arrangement with the United States now in existence.

When we were transferred to the Arkansas from the Hartford, I heard that Branch was quoted first class in a review for sneaking. When we returned to Annapolis Branch and I were put in different classes. I saw Branch go to my room for an extra inspection. I went to Mr. Branch and asked him if there had been an extra inspection ordered. He then told me that Branch had asked to get a report against me if he (Bradley) could.

That night after consulting my friends I went to Branch's room and told me he was going to "blow" me; that is, make me fail, and I went to fight and end the matter. I did not intend to fight when I went to the room, but he again told me that he intended to bludge me.

Meriwether's counsel then asked him about his refraining from hitting Branch during the fight, although allowed to do so under the rules. The witness told of two instances of this, explaining that he did not believe any blows should be struck in a stand-off fight unless men are on their feet. He also told how he fouled and offered to give up the fight, but the seconds would not allow it. Of the fight itself Meriwether said:

During the fight we first fell under the blinds. About the twelfth round I rushed Branch and both fell sideways through the door. The next round Branch hit a terrific uppercut. It stunned me for some time. I returned to his jaw, though I am not fighting condition. I added: "If you get up I will lick you." He said, "You mean you will try." "That's what I will do," I said, "and if you get up I will show you."

At the end of the twenty-third round Mr. Branch retreated to the room and we both apologized, and he said: "Afterward we will be friends." He then left and I have never seen him since. We parted as friends. I could not go to the hospital. About 3 o'clock the next afternoon I was told by a nurse that Branch was dead. I requested an official investigation by the superintendent. I was hurt and I believed by the superintendent. I think that Mr. Branch was indeed more fortunate in being in his place, in going to sleep and not waking up, than to be in mine and having to live this life after this sad and deplorable affair.

In answer to a question, Meriwether said that if he had not resented Branch's continued actions he would be in the same position as another classmate with whom no one has anything to do. The prosecution then began its cross-examination. Meriwether said in answer to a question: "Hazing consists of physical exercises. Running" is much worse than hazing. He then said that he was the first witness for the prosecution. As commandant, he said, he took the stand that fighting at the academy would be tolerated. "This," he said, "I think is also the view of Superintendent Sanders."

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