The Sun.

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THROUGH A ROTTEN WHARF.

A PICNIC PARTY PLUNGED IN THE DARKNESS INTO CHESAPEAKE BAY.

Fierce Struggles for Life in Ten Feet of Water—No Prompt Assistance at Hand—Sixty-five Bodies Found—Many Young Victims, Mostly Women and Children.

BALTIMORE, July 24.—The excursion barge Cockade City made three trips yesterday to Tivoli, carrying about 600 persons. The excursion was under the management of the Beneficial Society of the Church of Corpus Christi, corner of Mount Royal avenue and Mosher street. The last trip was made from this city between 6 and 7 o'clock, and the barge reached the dock at Tivoli before 10. At 2 o'clock this morning the barge reached Henderson's wharf, at the foot of Ann street, bearing twenty-eight dead bodies, the victims of a terrible accident. Later thirty-five more were recovered, making sixty-three.

The barge on her last trip from the city to bring back the last of the excursionists reached Tivoli about 9 o'clock last night. About 200 people, men, women, and children, were gathered on the old pier waiting to be admitted to the barge. They were kept back by a gate across the pier about twenty-five feet from the extreme end. The people were pushing against the gate impatiently. The dock was almost in utter darkness. Suddenly, and without any warning, the western string-piece of the half-decayed pier parted, and more than half of the crowd were thrown into ten feet of water. Those on the outskirts of the crowd were able to save themselves by springing back as the pier fell.

Darkness added much to the confusion, and little could be done promptly to rescue the drowning. Some boats from the shore were pushed into the water. The cries of mothers for their children, of the young girls, and of men face to face with death were terrible.

The Rev. W. E. Starr, pastor of Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church, who witnessed the tragedy, said to-night: "The wharf at Tivoli ran out from the shore perhaps one thousand feet. Near both ends of the wharf were large gates, which were generally kept closed upon the arrival of the boat. Last night a number of persons, fatigued and desiring to obtain advantageous positions on the boat, strolled out upon the wharf before the arrival of the barge, so that at the time she came in sight there were probably between 200 and 300 persons on the wharf between the gates. I, with a few others, had gained the extreme end of the wharf beyond the boat gate when the barge made fast. At the mean time both gates had been closed, and the keeper of the gate nearest the barge would not allow any one to pass.

"The people near the boat were just walking over the gangplank when I heard a crash behind me, and saw a dark hole in the wharf and a mass of human beings struggling in the water beneath, while others on the wharf were pushing and jostling each other in a frantic endeavor to reach a place of safety. Men and women were shrieking and children were crying, while from the dark abyss below the most heartrending cries were heard, only to end in gurgling sounds as the helpless beings succumbed to the waters.

"Stools, pieces of plank, and everything available were thrown into the water right in the midst of the struggling mass, until it became evident that some who might be saved were being injured by the efforts of others, and of the heedlessness of those who, with the best intentions but very poor judgment, were casting the heavy articles into the water. I myself stepped upon a parallel wharf and made my way back to the scene of the disaster. Efforts to rescue the drowning persons were being made by a few brave young men, and already a number of dead bodies and others who were well-nigh dead had been brought up and lay on the wharf. One young man pulled off his outer clothing, sprang into the water, and succeeded in rescuing a number of persons. If there had been eight or ten like him I am satisfied that but few would have been drowned. The moon had not yet arisen, and the work progressed under the feeble light of a few lanterns. A number of bonfires had been started on the shore to allow those who had been rescued to dry their clothing.

"Finally the boat started for the city with twenty-eight bodies.

"To whom the blame should be attached I cannot say. The wharf was an old, rickety thing, and last year I remember there was a large piece of plank off which might have proved a death trap to some one in its loose condition. It is probable that if the people had been more equally distributed the accident would not have occurred."

The scene at Johnderson's Wharf, where the Cockade City arrived with her first load of dead at 2 o'clock this morning, was affecting. Many friends of those who had gone on the excursion had gathered, being uneasy at the unusual delay. Anxious parents, sons, and daughters at once began to make inquiries, and agonizing cries went up as they found their fears verified and learned that some of their friends were among the dead. During the morning the crowd increased and the sorrowful scenes grew in number.

Most of the victims were women, and in very many cases young girls. In many instances their faces were discolored and blood oozed from their nostrils.

When carried off the boat the bodies were laid side by side in the shed on the wharf. The faces were covered with cloths, and the hands were crossed on the breast. All the undertaker wagons obtainable were secured, and the work of taking the identified victims to the homes so suddenly cast into gloom was begun. At 8½ o'clock this morning, out of the thirty-one dead brought up by the Cockade City on its first trip, only six remained.

The Cockade City left at 4:38 A. M. for the scene of the disaster again. It had left many bodies there, and about 200 of the excursionists. Those left behind were in large part women and children, and they passed a terrible night, mostly in the open air. A large fire was built, and around this the shivering ones gathered to dry their clothes. Men in boats around the pier were still searching for the dead. The work of recovering the bodies went on until sixty-five bodies were recovered.

Up to to-night 65 bodies have been brought to the city, all of which, except four, have been identified. The following is a list, with the ages, so far as ascertained:

John McAnany, Mrs. John McAnany and infant, Mrs. Crouch and two children, Katie and Annie; Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin and three children, Katie, Mary, and John, aged 13, 10, and 9 years; Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Rebecca Erman and daughter, Belle, 16; Miss Mary Burns, Miss Kate Colbert, Miss Laura Swearer, Miss Maggie Thompson, Maggie Burns, Wilhelmina Willian, Agnes Feehan, Mary Newman, Mary McGahan, Mary Spies, 18; Rosa McBride, Maggie Lynch, 10; Mary Lynch, 20; Mary and Jennie Carey, sisters, 20 and 22; Minnie Kinnelnut, 11; Margaret McGahan, 30; Bridget Gaffey, 28; Winfield Gaffey, 21; Minnie O'Neill, 8; Fannie Le Marie, Mary Lynburg, two sisters; Fanny Arnold, 18; Nellie Murphy, Mary Hughes, 17; Olivia Scull, infant; Mary Hammill, 18; Alice Ryan, Johanna O'Connell, Mary Gibbin, Elizabeth Cole, Annie Miller, 25; Eliza Ruth, 30; Elizabeth Beckman, 60, and daughter Elizabeth, 19; Patrick Ryan, 38; James Owens, W. H. P. Jacobs, Thos. L. Mosenian, Daniel Gibbins, infant; Albert Ross, 40; Jesse Sunwalt, Henry Lenburg, Wm. Gardner, Wm. Lehn, 18; Bernard Gately, Edward Callahan, and Annie Weidel.

The parties resided in almost every section of the city, being members of Catholic churches in different localities.

Coroner Merfit began an inquest this evening. Jacob Bonnet, a policeman, testified that the crowd on the wharf numbered at least seven hundred persons and that three hundred fell into the water. He had seen larger crowds on the wharf. The flooring had been repaired this spring. He examined the place where the break occurred, and found the timbers quite rotten. Tho Roy, Mr. Starr testified that the wharf was a mass of patching from one end to the other. John Conner, a policeman, said the timber of the wharf appeared to be very good, though there was some dry rot. Frank Debillins, proprietor of Tivoli, said he had the wharf examined every year before the excursion season, and he supposed that it was in good condition.

The Coroner's jury brought in the following verdict:

We find that Louisa Swearer and others came to their deaths by drowning by the breaking of the bridge at Tivoli, and that the authorities of the place did not use proper care and precaution to prevent the occurrence.

Death of Ex-Gov. Swann.

BALTIMORE, July 24.—Specials received in this city to-night announce that ex-Gov. Thomas Swann of Maryland died at his estate near Leesburg, Loudon county, Va., at 8 o'clock to-night. Gov. Swann was a Representative from this city in the Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, and Forty-fifth Congresses, and during the latter was Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was at one time President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He was made Mayor of Baltimore by the Know-Nothing party and established there the police system, fire alarm system, and many other important public works and improvements. He was a Union man and a Republican, and at the close of the rebellion became a Democrat. His home has been at different times in Washington, Leesburg, or in his Fifth avenue residence in this city. He was twice wedded, his last time to Mrs. Edgar Thompson of Princeton. He was born in Alexandria in 1805.

Obituary.

Capt. Leitch, Commodore of the Cunard fleet of steamers, has died on board the company's steamer Saragossa, in the Mediterranean. He had been fifty years in the service of the Cunard Company, and took out the first party of troops to participate in the Crimean campaign.

CAPT. EGAN KILLS HIMSELF.

Trouble that Followed His Wife's Successful Suit for a Limited Divorce.

Richard P. Egan, a customs officer attached to the barge office, killed himself on Monday night or yesterday in his room at 42 Clinton place. He was a soldier in the war of the rebellion with a good record, leaving the service with the rank of Captain. He had been connected with the customs service for fifteen years, and was 52 years old. His friend, Patrick B. Egan, of whom he rented his room in Clinton place, says he had been made temporarily insane by family troubles. About two months ago his wife, to whom he had been married twenty-four years, obtained a decree of separation from him with an allowance of $65 a month for her support, on the ground of cruelty and ill treatment. They had been living at 23 Washington place. Capt. Egan was greatly affected by this result of the proceedings, which he had opposed by denying the alleged cruelty.

About the first of July, his friend says, he prepared for a few weeks of vacation, which he intended to spend at Fort Hamilton. Before he could get away he was arrested at the instance of his wife, who swore to a belief that he was about to leave the State to escape the jurisdiction of the court. He spent a week in Ludlow street jail before he could collect letters from his physicians and the Custom House authorities to prove that he did not intend to run away. This imprisonment added to his despondency.

Recently Mr. P. B. Egan took away from him a bottle of poison. This was reported to Capt. Egan's son, John Egan, a young man employed in the Post Office, and the latter was advised that his father ought to be taken care off.

On Monday night Capt. Egan seemed to be in better spirits than usual. He went to his room about midnight. Yesterday afternoon it was noticed that a light was still burning in his room, and he was found dead on the floor with a bullet hole in his right temple. Letters were found on his table for Mr. P. B. Egan enclosing a letter from Gen. Phil Sheridan and a certificate from Adjt.-Gen. Farnsworth, which the suicide desired to have published. Others were for John Laird of the barge office, for the suicide's wife, and for his son. Coroner Martin distributed them. Mrs. Egan is a sister of Gen. McQuade of Utica.

The letter to Mr. P. B. Egan said: "I had to do it Pat; it could not be avoided."

Gen. Sheridan's letter reads:

To whom it may concern:

Understanding that Capt. Richard P. Egan of New York is an applicant for an appointment in the Internal Revenue Department, it is with pleasure I recommend him. Few discharged officers in the late rebellion can have stronger claims to consideration, and his high executive ability and sterling integrity were shown in him for the place he seeks. In the latter days of the war he served in my command, and for worthy and meritorious conduct was appointed Chief Quartermaster, Cavalry Forces, Military Division of the Gulf, in the duties of which he discharged with credit and fidelity. I sincerely trust he may be able to obtain a position commensurate with his acknowledged abilities.

P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant-General.

Adjt.-Gen. Farnsworth's certificate gives Capt. Egan's military record. Egan was Second Lieutenant and Adjutant in the 101st New York, Quartermaster in the Eleventh New York Artillery and afterward in the Fourteenth New York Cavalry and the Eighteenth New York Cavalry.

DROWNED IN SIGHT OF THOUSANDS.

The Sad Fate of One Girl and Narrow Escape of Another at Atlantic City.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—A despatch from Atlantic City to the *Times* says that while thousands lined the beach and hundreds of others were plunging in the surf to-day two young girls were struggling for their lives in the waves. One was brought to the shore in an unconscious condition, and revived; the other sank before help could reach her. They were Nellie Rosenberg and Maggie Wasser of Philadelphia, each about 14 years old, and had been brought up together. The girls were in the habit of bathing every day near the pier. They had always attracted a great deal of attention by their merry laughter and youthful play in the surf. The bathing near the pier attracts a multitude daily to watch the bathers. At about twenty minutes after 10 o'clock, just before the life guard came on duty, and at which time the crowd is always the greatest, piercing shrieks were heard in the neighborhood of the pier, and thousands of eyes saw the gleam of white arms, which an instant later disappeared beneath the waves. Col. J. Holmes of Philadelphia, who was sitting in the pier office a moment before, looked out and saw, about two hundred feet from the shore, the young girls struggling in the waves. In an instant a breaker hid them from view, and, when it receded, but one of them was to be seen. He leaped in after her. She evidently could not swim, but by desperate efforts and without uttering a cry keeped afloat. She forgot her own peril in the desire to save her companion. Thousands saw this. Mike Bradford of the life guard was about 100 yards away. He ran out on the pier and plunged in. The man appealed to him for help, and the guard cried out to him to save the girl, and swam past him to the still floating form of Maggie Wasser. When his strong arm clasped it she closed her eyes and gave up the struggle. A hundred hands were ready to relieve him. Only hard work brought her back to consciousness.

The alarm had spread like lightning, and the throng that had seen the unfortunate girl swallowed up was soon augmented by thousands from along the beach and the city itself. As they strained their eyes there was seen a speck of blue upon the very crest of a breaker. Another wave swept it closer, and twenty men plunged into the surf to bear the dead form of Nellie Rosenburg to the beach. Every restorative known to science was applied by Drs. Shephard, Boardman, and Read, but all efforts were unavailing.

THE SCOURGE INCREASING.

Cholera Attacking British Troops—Hundreds of Deaths Reported in Cairo.

SUEZ, July 24.—Cholera has broken out among the soldiers of the British Forty-second Regiment, which recently arrived here from Cairo. Two members of the regiment have died from the disease.

It is reported that cholera has appeared among the British soldiers at the citadel in Cairo. One soldier has died in the military hospital at Abassies. The British Royal Artillery and the Nineteenth Hussars, which are stationed at Abassies, are preparing to go to Ochmooneyn.

During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 o'clock this morning there were 463 deaths from cholera at Cairo, 23 at Zitteh, 16 at Tantah, 9 at Shirbin, 13 at Mansurah, 117 at Chibin, 43 at Mehallet, 95 at Ghizeh, and 7 at Chobar.

A European has died in Alexandria from cholera.

SUSPICIOUS OF M. DE LESSEPS.

The Suez Canal Company to be Prevented from Monopolizing the Isthmus.

LONDON, July 24.—Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice that he would move shortly an address to the Queen praying that in any negotiations relative to the Suez Canal she will decline to recognize any claim of the Suez Canal Company to such a monopoly as would exclude other undertakings designed for the purpose of opening a way between the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

The *Standard* says the opposition in the House of Commons will endeavor to obtain the time of the House on Monday and Tuesday next week for the discussion of a motion which will probably declare that no arrangement for making the new Suez Canal which recognizes the monopoly of M. de Lesseps will be satisfactory.

Mr. Chamberlain, President of the Board of Trade, announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the Government had abandoned for this session the English Channel Tunnel bill.

In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Gladstone, replying to a question by Mr. Chaplin, said the Government had no intention to legislate further in regard to the importation of cattle unless the law now existing was found to be inadequate.

Entertained by the Lord Mayor.

LONDON, July 24.—The American rifle team were entertained at luncheon to-day by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor addressed a few words to each guest, and introduced him to the Lady Mayoress. At luncheon Col. Howard, Captain of the American team, sat on the right of the hostess, and Lieut. Col. Otter, Captain of the Canadian team, on her left. The Lord Mayor toasted the Queen and President Arthur. He then toasted Col. Howard and the American team and Lieut. Col. Otter and his team. Col. Howard, in responding on behalf of the Americans, called attention to the fact that America was still young in rifle shooting. He said his team only represented four States of the Union. He said he hoped the day would come when every American would be proficient in rifle shooting. He thanked the Lord Mayor for his hospitality, and the nation for the treatment his team had received since they had been in England. Lieut.-Col. Otter said he hoped that the Canadians would win some future contest. Col. Howard then toasted the Lord Mayor, who invited the teams to inspect the Mansion House.

Cetywayo Finds Safety in Flight.

DURBAN, July 24.—The report of the victory of Usilepa over Cetywayo is confirmed. Cetywayo, however, was not wounded, and made his escape from the enemy. An immense number of his men were killed.

Subsidizing French Steamers.

PARIS, July 24.—The General Transatlantic Steamship Company has obtained a contract to carry the mails between Havre and New York. It will receive a subvention from the Government of 5,400,000 francs.

NO TRUCE IN THE STRIKE.

THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE SUGGESTS ARBITRATION.

Western Union Bulletins of the Improvement in its Service—Master Workman Campbell's Version—A Chief Operator Resigns—Conferences with American Rapid.

There was no evidence about the Western Union building yesterday that the company intended yielding, in any way, to the demands of the striking operators. Mr. Jay Gould, who was there for an hour in the morning, said that the outlook was very satisfactory, and complimented those in charge upon the manner in which the business was being conducted. Press agent Somerville said that there were more than three hundred operators at work in the building, and that they were doing good work. It was said that nothing is likely to be done at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the company to-day looking toward an arrangement of any kind with the strikers.

Manager Dealy of the operating room said that of the 300 operators employed, the majority were capable and did excellent work. Many of them had been permanently engaged, so that whatever way the strike went, some of the strikers could not be taken back. The Western Union Company, he said, regarded the strike as at an end. He had received letters from members of the families of the strikers saying that they were in need of money, and suffering greatly.

Mr. J. B. Stewart, chief operator of the Western circuit, sent in his resignation yesterday morning, and left the building shortly before noon. He said that he had accepted the office of electrician in the Baltimore and Ohio Company, and intended to go to Baltimore in the evening. He said he was to hold another office also under the same company. He would not tell what it was. He intended to try at once to make a compromise with the strikers formerly employed by the Baltimore and Ohio Company. He said he knew that the company would not treat with the Brotherhood, but that it was willing to grant all the demands of the men except the increase of 15 per cent. on their salaries. He thought that on this point a compromise might be effected.

Mr. Somerville expressed regret that Mr. Stewart had resigned. He said that the resignation would hurt the company no more than its presumptive loss of any one of the twenty-five chief operators. The manager of a circuit or "switch" is required to have ready knowledge of all the stations and sub-stations covered by the wires of the circuit.

Six of the women operators did not go to work yesterday morning, but Mr. Somerville says that there is nothing unusual in the circumstance. The Brotherhood say that the women will not go back. Mr. Somerville expects four of them back.

DELAYS OF MONDAY NIGHT.

The storm of Monday night and yesterday badly crippled many of the Western Union wires. West of Buffalo and Pittsburgh, and between those places and Chicago more than half the wires were rendered useless, and what messages were sent went very slowly. On Monday night there was only one working wire between this city and St. Louis. There was great difficulty in sending on this wire, and a considerable amount of press matter for St. Louis was refused. There was also delay in sending to Chicago, and yesterday morning more than fifty messages which could not be sent on Monday night were forwarded. There was also for a time difficulty in getting communication with Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and many points on the Mississippi. Early yesterday morning matters had not greatly improved. Later three wires were got to work between here and Chicago, but messages were sent slowly. Mr. Somerville, when asked if the strike of the linemen would prevent the repairing of the lines, said that it would not. Mr. T. Doren, the General Superintendent of Construction, said that there was a sufficient force of linemen to keep all the wires in order.

"Our present force," said Mr. Somerville, "is able to do all the work we are now doing. The messages to-day are much heavier than yesterday's, and, with the exception of those places to which the wires are injured, are being handled in good shape and without delay. Thirty-two of the Western Union offices in this city are now open, and we shall open the others as soon as we receive them as conveniently can. Their managers, who were brought down here when the strike first began, we could send back to their posts now, for their places in the operating room have been filled.

The renewed report that twenty-four cable operators at Duxbury, Mass., and North Sidney, C. B., had struck, was denied.

GETTING ALONG ON 'CHANGE.

Brokers and speculators are getting accustomed to using the methods of communicating with each other which were used before the era of general and cheap telegraphy. The Wall street members of the Western Union directory admit that the business of the company will grow falling off for some time to come—in fact, until the people who use the telegraph most have been convinced that their messages can be transmitted promptly and accurately. The largest patrons of the telegraph have found that they are not so dependent upon telegraph service as from habit they had supposed they were, and until they are assured of service that is up to what was the standard before the strike, they will rely as far as they can upon the postal service.

"The result will be," said a prominent director of the company, "that we will lose in earnings for a short time, but when we have demonstrated that our new force can do the business, and do it satisfactorily, business will return to us."

The Hon. Russell Sage said yesterday afternoon that the company could find places for about thirty-five or forty of the best operators who had left the company's service, but that otherwise the company was well supplied.

The Produce Exchange was better served with Chicago quotations yesterday than on Saturday and Monday. The quotations came over the Western Union wires. At all the Exchanges there was a reluctance to use the wires, because messages were still received subject to delay.

A petition was circulated for signatures in the Produce Exchange:

The Board of Managers of the New York Produce Exchange is respectfully requested to call a meeting of its members for the purpose, first, to consider the present condition of affairs resulting from the misunderstanding between the Western Union Telegraph Company and their employees; second, to devise some measures by which the present serious injury to business may be overcome.

CONFERENCES WITH AMERICAN RAPID.

J. W. Converse of Boston, President of the American Rapid Telegraph Company, F. H. May, Vice-President, and Manager Sherman were in conference yesterday morning with the Executive Committee of the Telegraphers' Brotherhood at Kiddler, Peabody & Co.'s, 1 Nassau street. District Master Workman Campbell declined to state last evening what the result of that conference was. A conference had been held in Baltimore, he said, between President Garrett and some of the leaders of the strike. No arrangement was made.

Vice-President May of the Rapid Telegraph Company refused to say whether his company was negotiating with the strikers. "I have heard rumors of a compromise between this company and its operators," he said, "but rumors are plenty. I have had a conference with Mr. Campbell of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers. I'm not going to tell what it was about. May be if you come back later I may give you more information."

At 5½ o'clock the reporter went back and found Mr. May's office full of directors of the company. "I can't tell you a thing," said Mr. May, cheerfully. "We have had a conference among ourselves, but the strikers were not represented. There will be no news to-night."

One of the directors said that the company was handling all the business it got, and that he could not see the use of compromising. He also said that the company would not yield to the demands of the strikers.

It was reported later, on the authority of a director, that the meeting resulted in the decision that no compromise should be made with the strikers. The director said that the Brotherhood did not insist on all the demands made in its memorial, but offered to modify them if the company would recognize the Brotherhood by treating with it.

Master Workman Campbell said there would be another conference to-day.

At the offices of the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company, Manager C. W. Price said that he had heard nothing about any compromise with the strikers. He said that the messages were being sent with facility, and that affairs were coming along nicely. At 5½ o'clock ten men and women could be seen at the desks from the door of the operating room. On the tables in front of them were soup bowls and dinner plates.

It is officially denied that there are any negotiations toward a compromise pending between the Western Union and the striking operators.

SOUTHERN'S RUPTURE WITH BALTIMORE AND OHIO.

Manager E. E. Stuart of the Southern Telegraph Company said to a reporter of THE SUN: "Western Union, in my opinion, is not getting along so well in the South as it represents. Many of its patrons have come here with letters from Southern correspondents who write that they have received no telegrams for days. In many instances they have sent by us to points nearest their correspondents and we have sent the despatches the rest of the way by express. Our contract with the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company is broken, and we send to Chicago, which does a large business with the South, by way of the Postal Telegraph Company, and are getting better service. The rupture occurred in this way: Our operators refused to transmit Baltimore and Ohio messages, and that company then said that they would not transmit our messages unless we sent theirs, and threatened to break the contract. We could not afford to fight our operators, and the contract was broken. It may be resulted when the strike is over, but we will also send by the Postal."

Mr. Stuart also said that a committee from the Brotherhood, headed by Master Workman Campbell, had called at the Southern's office and inquired into the rates paid to the operators and the hours that they worked. The company recognized the Brotherhood. The committee's investigation was satisfactory, and the committee assured him that no strike would be ordered among that company's men.

WHY A WIRE ON THE ERIE WAS REMOVED.

A Western Union line was removed yesterday from several of the New Jersey stations of the New York and Lake Erie Railroad. It was said at one of the stations that the wire was being taken out because of the refusal to send Western Union private and commercial messages over it.

Mr. W. J. Holmes, superintendent of the telegraph department of the railroad company, said:

"In consequence of interruptions at one or two stations along the line of the road, it was deemed advisable to disconnect certain of the wires. The stations, however, have other wires sufficient for the transaction of all necessary business."

The operators on the Erie road have made no demands upon the company.

Mr. Somerville had a conference with Mr. Holmes in the Western Union building yesterday morning, but nothing could be learned of its nature. Mr. Somerville said that none of the railroad companies had refused to receive for forwarding Western Union despatches, but that the railroad operators in some instances had refused to send such messages. He said that no importance need be attached to the removal of the line at the Erie stations.

REPORTS AT THE OPERATORS' MEETING.

The striking telegraph operators crowded Clarendon Hall at 8 o'clock. The meeting overflowed upon the sidewalk. Chairman Mitchell read a Troy despatch saying:

All solid, with both girls gone home to await the signal to return. No one on duty but the manager and two hoosiers. Meet every day at Albany, and everything booming.

A telegram from Philadelphia announced "another stampede from the Western Union office, and the company badly crippled."

T. B. Maguire of the Truck Drivers' Union advised the strikers to keep the strict letter of the law on their side. The strike should be kept up if it took every cent workingmen could save for a year. They were all interested and watching, for they felt that with its failure the iron-shod foot of corporate monopoly would be on the throats of laboring men everywhere.

The following instructions were read from John Campbell, District Master Workman:

Please instruct your members working for the Southern Telegraph Company and the Postal Telegraph Company to make business delays on the Southern Telegraph Company's wires, provided such business does not come from a manager, agent, or operator of the Western Union, B. and O., or American Rapid Telegraph Company.

The Chairman said: "From interviews by some members of our local Executive Committee with business men of New York, we learn that it will be impossible for the Western Union Company to hold out much longer. Yesterday we initiated in the neighborhood of twenty-five members. Non-members are now getting so scarce we can't keep up our rate much longer. Two linemen, one from the Western Union, have been initiated to-day."

George Mudgett, an old New York operator, engaged in other business in eastern Massachusetts, said to a press despatch: "I have had been offered to induce him to go to Boston after the strike. He declined the offer. He had since been in Montreal, Boston, Providence, Springfield, and Hartford, and had found the telegraph offices deserted. He passed three hours on Monday evening in the Western Union office in New York, and found they were handling some business, but very badly, paying most attention to newspaper specials.

The Chairman said it was $90 a month had been offered to an operator at Culpepper, Virginia, to go to the Washington Western Union office. He answered, 'Judas Iscariot has been dead 1,800 years.'"

It was announced that the ball game between linemen and operators at the Polo grounds had been postponed to Wednesday at 4 P. M. The sale of tickets will stand good.

Robert Blissert addressed the meeting. Edward M. Fox, formerly an operator, advised the strikers to build lines, if they had to begin with a single line between New York and Boston. They had men with the necessary intelligence to organize such a scheme.

THE HOPES OF THE STRIKERS.

John S. McClellan said he had noticed that the newspapers thought the success of the strike was simply a question of supply and demand. On that point the operators felt that it would be impossible for the companies to supply their places. It was well known that the Western Union would direct every effort to strengthen itself in New York, the centre and headquarters of the strike, to which every eye was turned. All the floating, loose, irresponsible element of the city would be called in to strengthen the office at 195 Broadway, but when the office had got in everything that remained, every operator of experience knew that it would be unable to transact one-tenth of the business it had done before the strength in numbers amounted to nothing in the telegraph business. The experts, whose ears and hands had been trained to their difficult duties by years of experience, could not be replaced. The broken-down, crippled, debauched, trembling wrecks, driven out of the offices long ago by sober men and women, could not, in the nature of things, come back to stay. Their presence was weakness to their employers instead of strength. The strike of 1876, weak though it was, should teach the operators a lesson, for at the very moment when John Lenhart led the break back into the office the company's representative was signing the strikers' demand.

It should be understood, Mr. McClellan continued, that strikers in immediate need of assistance could apply to the Brotherhood would not be able to feed its members in princely style, but would take care of them thoroughly and promptly. Money was coming in.

"I took a telegram down to the main office to-day for a friend," said Operator Keeler. "And they stamped on the back of it, 'Subject to delay.' They wouldn't give any guarantee that it would get through in one day, one week, or six weeks, and I wouldn't leave it. The Western Union now gives a free lunch in that old lunch room which is not fit for an Italian, and whose horrible fare made dyspeptics of you for life. I ask you all to stand firm. I have a little bank account, and I will give you every penny rather than have this fight lost. [Cheers.] I was talking to Acting Vice-President Bates this morning, and I said: 'We will all be back shortly.' 'Well, I don't know about that,' he said. 'I think you would.' I said, 'If you knew the determination of the Telegraphers' Brotherhood.'"

"I have just received very great intelligence," the Chairman said. "I believe that by noon to-morrow you will hear something that will satisfy every one of you. I believe it will be joyful intelligence to you all."

WESTERN UNION BULLETINS.

Assistant General Manager Merrihew of the Western Union was in charge last night. He said that three or four of the striking linemen had been taken back unconditionally, and that he had a larger force of operators working than he could keep busy, with the lines in their present condition.

The Western Union officers announced yesterday that they had decided to send out hereafter no more press daily bulletins of the company's business. Yesterday's bulletins were as follows:

At 2 o'clock to-day Eastern business was up and in good shape. The company was sending on three wires South and New Orleans. Only fifty messages on hand. It was up on Pittsburgh and Buffalo, but business west of Pittsburgh and Buffalo was two or three hours behind. Business to St. Louis was several hours behind. Business transaction at Chicago was in good shape and up, but all that coming East by way of Chicago was considerably delayed there on account of the trouble on the wires between Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and the West.

5 P. M.—Clear—Boston, east and west way; Long Branch, Philadelphia and Baltimore; Augusta and Savannah; Chattanooga, Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland, Montreal, and cables. One and one-half hours delay caused by lightning—New Orleans and Texas.

Chicago, 2 hours' delay; Cincinnati, 3½ hours' delay; Pittsburgh, 3½ hours' delay; St. Louis, 4½ hours' delay.

Severe storm along the line between New York and Chicago.

10 P. M.—Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati clear. Storm south of Richmond and Richburg delaying Southern business. Other directions generally fair. Wires in fair shape, and business moving rapidly. Business generally shows a gratifying increase over business of yesterday.

For the first time since the strike began there was no lack last night in the newspaper offices of telegraphic matter. Errors in transmission and transcribing were common.

THE BROTHERHOOD'S VERSION.

"I can furnish," Mr. Campbell said at the strikers' headquarters in the Manhattan Hotel last evening, a list of the names of all the operators who have been at work to-day in the Western Union building. There were 92, and of that number just 28 deserve the name of operators and 20 of those are second-class. Twenty-one of the 92 were women. Many of these people are from the country and are inexperienced. To all these facts I can furnish an affidavit. I am also prepared to prove that the average delay on messages is from 8 to 12 hours. If the strike lasts until next Saturday, we will have 95 per cent. of the entire number of railroad and commercial operators in the Brotherhood."

"Can you support the strikers for three months?"

"Without the slightest difficulty."

"We can make affidavit," Mr. Campbell went on, "to the attempt by the Western Union Telegraph Company to induce several of our members, by offers of large sums of money and permanent engagements, to violate their oaths to us and return to work. Four men that I know of were approached in this way yesterday. The salaries offered were far above what the company has ever paid before. Those offers were rejected, but they show the strait the company has reached."

"At least twenty of our men here," said John Mitchell, "have been approached by the company with offers of permanent contracts at greatly increased salaries. The operator at City Island says several ships have been detained off there two days, waiting for orders to come in. For twenty-four hours after the strike commenced he found it impossible to raise New York at all. Finally got a Cooper Union operator at the New York end, who broke in to express sympathy with the strikers."

"Our Philadelphia skirmishers had an exceptional experience to-day," said Committeeman Harry W. Orr. "Five hundred dollars was offered to a young member of our Brotherhood by a capitalist living at Cap May to go down and open that office. He was induced to think it was not like accepting an offer of the company. Our skirmishers found him on the ferryboat just starting. They nipped that scheme in the bud in a hurry."

"New Orleans business over the Western Union at 5½ P. M. to-day was eight hours late," said Mr. Mitchell.

The Brotherhood received a proposition yesterday from the Universal Peace Union at Philadelphia asking that the services of their arbitration court be accepted in the settlement of the existing difficulties.

John Mitchell telegraphed to Washington last night that ten men had left the Western Union main office here last night. At the office it was denied, but the striking operators at the door said that two men had left, one who was on the Chicago wire and the other an important man in the cable department.

Taking the Delay Clause into Court.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—C. E. Fuller of 138 South Delaware avenue instructed an attorney to-day to bring suit against Western Union for its refusal to send two despatches under the ordinary printed conditions. Mr. Fuller is the representative here of a Chicago meat firm. He says that his bills for telegraphing amount to more than $100 a day. To-day he received an order from Atlantic City for about 2,000 pounes of tenderloin steaks. He was not able to forward so much, but wrote a despatch informing his correspondents that he would fill a part of their order and complete it as promptly as possible. He offered the message at a branch office at Front and Chestnut streets. The operator stamped on the blank in red ink the words, "Accepted subject to mailing or other delay," and required a verbal agreement to this condition. Mr. Fuller refused to accede to the requirement. The operator then said that he could not accept the despatch. Mr. Fuller went to the office at Third and Chestnut streets. He was met with the same demand for a parole agreement to the delay condition. Again he refused to consent, and again his despatch was rejected. Later in the day he wrote out another message to his Atlantic City customer. He presented this also at both offices and it was refused as before.

The proceedings will be entered under the fifteenth section of the act of March 29, 1849, which provides that any telegraph company refusing to receive or forward any message proper for transmission, accompanied by the stipulated fee, shall be liable to a fine of $100 to every message so refused. The fine is recoverable before a magistrate. One half goes to the State and the other half to the person suing. In the case in question, no direct tender of the usual fee was made. Mr. Fuller's lawyer says, however, that this omission does not diminish the strength of the case, as the refusal was made before payment could have been tendered.

The Brotherhood Always Open to Proposals.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—President Lavarty of the local branch of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers, sent to the press this afternoon a circular addressed to the public, in which he calls attention to an impression which prevails to some extent that the Executive Board of Telegraphers inexorably insists upon all or nothing, and that the strikers, therefore, are responsible for the inconvenience which the public is suffering. This, he says, is an erroneous impression. The Board has always been ready to consider proposals having in view a settlement of difficulties; but thus far the telegraph companies have positively refused to recognize the Brotherhood or representatives of the employees of the companies, when the events of the past few days have clearly shown that the Board does represent the telegraphers of the country. The circular says that a satisfactory adjustment of difficulties would quickly be arrived at if the several corporations would recognize and treat with the Executive Board chosen by the telegraphers for that purpose.

A Striking Telegrapher who Attempts to Commit Murder.

ATLANTA, Ga., July 24.—At 10 o'clock this morning a pistol ball was fired through the window of the Western Union Telegraph office here, shivering the large plate glass and striking the receiving clerk, Witt, just above the hip. The ball was spent, however, and the injury was not serious. The range of the ball indicates that it came from an up-stairs room of the Kimball house across the street. Mr. Witt withdrew from the Brotherhood of Telegraphers the day before the strike. Western Union has instructed its representative at Atlanta to offer a reward of $1,000 for the conviction of the man who fired the shot.

Chicago Suggests Arbitration.

CHICAGO, July 24.—To directors of the Board of Trade passed the following to-day:

Whereas, The business of the Board of Trade is prostrated and the business affairs of the whole community very disastrously affected by the present inability of the telegraph companies to perform their usual service,

Resolved, That this Board, without presuming to decide as to the merits of the controversy between the companies and their employees, urges that some action be at once taken to put a stop to the public suffering and loss, and respectfully suggests to the companies that the controversy, being a proper one for arbitrament, be submitted to disinterested persons for compromise.

The Strike in Other Cities.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—The fifteen branch offices of the American Rapid Company have been closed, and all the business is now conducted at the main office on Chestnut street, near Second, which has also been deserted by all except Manager Pennock and two women, who operate type writers. Very little business was done. At the office of the Baltimore and Ohio Company all the operators are out except the chief, who said to-day that business, so far as his office was concerned, was at a standstill.

CHICAGO, July 24.—A circular was sent out to-day from the headquarters of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers of this city to the superintendents of roads centering here. The gist of the circular is that the Brotherhood does not wish to interfere with the railway traffic, but can be compelled to do so in self-protection by calling out its members, unless the railway managers cease aiding the telegraph companies by sending their men to work for them. The roads which the circular addresses are the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, Chicago and Alton, Chicago and Atlantic, Chicago and Eastern Illinois, Chicago and Northwestern, Chicago and Western Indiana, Illinois Central and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. It will be noticed that none of the Eastern roads or Pennsylvania lines are in the list. The telegraphers claim that of 10,000 members of the Brotherhood, 9,000, or more than half, are employed by railroads, and they assert that they are prepared, if absolutely compelled to, to call them out.

ST. JOSEPH, July 24.—Yesterday morning the male operators in the Western Union office in this city notified their employers that they would strike unless a letter from the East indicating a settlement of the difficulties, they would quit work at 2 o'clock. Consequently at that hour they put on their coats and left the office, leaving only the female operators. The night force did not report for duty. The manager has succeeded, however, in securing some help from outside, and the press report is being received during the af