ALL IN A SQUABBLE

REPUBLICAN CONTESTS FOR POSITIONS ON THE COUNTY TICKET

PRIMARIES HELD TONIGHT

Every Man Who Is After a Place Claims He Has It Cinched—George Irish Looks Like a Winner for the Nomination for Sheriff—Fight for County Auditor Waxes Warm—General Outlook.

In the Eleventh precinct of the First ward there will be five tickets in the field at the primary tonight, and that is some sort of evidence of the sort of harmony which prevails in the Republican camp. A man with sporting blood and $400 might have gone into the place where the Republican candidates abound, early last evening, and there made four bets of a hundred each aganist four candidates for the nomination for sheriff, and he would have been $300 to the good tomorrow. They had the courage of their convictions—the candidates. They or their friends were willing to take the money even on themselves to the extent of a hundred. It might have been different of course if anybody had offered to put up actual cash, but they talked very earnestly about how much they would like to bet. They all seemed to believe what they were talking about, too.

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It is in fact anybody's fight. George Irish is the likeliest one of the lot, but if he is a winner then there is no chance on earth for the fourth man. That fourth man is Phil. Justis. He is in the dark horse class. He was spoken of a week ago by Fred. Schiffmann. Schiffmann mentioned his name once, and then went hunting. Fred wanted to see what would come of the mentioning of the name. Nothing came from it, and when Schiffmann came home last night he found his dark horse still very dark, and very quiet in the stable. George Irish heard about the Justis suggestion last night:

"If he is depending on a combination in the Fourth ward to start," said Irish, "Justis might as well give up the idea. I don't know what Libby is thinking of, and don't care, but I do know that there is going to be no compromise in the Fourth ward, and that I am going to win out." He was in earnest about going through without a compromise; as to whether he can win out or not is a question that is not settled. He is certainly stronger than Libby, both in the Fourth ward and in the city generally.

The big fight on the sheriff nomination will be in the Fourth. The canvass is badly mixed. In some of the precincts of the Fourth there are as many tickets as there are in some of those in the First. There is a fight in all of the precincts that have hitherto been regarded as the especial bailiwicks of the leaders, and things are beautifully mixed. The ward will send in a number of contesting delegations and there will be probably four times as many votes cast in the ward at the caucuses tonight as there will be on eelction day. Ames has not made any attempt to do business outside of his own ward, and he will probably have about half the delgates from the Second with him in convention.

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The interesting feature of the row that is involving the candidates for sheriff is the little bickering that is going on for county auditor. The struggle is between Fitzgerald and Johnson. The former had easy sledding enough until Johnson came out and Ames was brought out as a candidate for sheriff, with the understanding that he would split Fitz's ward. He has done that, and the Johnson people can point to the fact that the Second ward man has not got his own ward solid. The argument has been effectual, and Johnson has gained a good deal of strength by it. Billy Johnson claimed last night that he had enough delegates pledged to elect him, and that all those who were pledged to him would be elected tonight. Fitzgerald would make no specific figures, but said that he was satisfied, and that he would be nominated. D. M. Sullivan is not mentioned as a possibility. He may have a few votes in the convention, but it is not likely that he will be put in nomination.

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Arosin, Mobery and Lindahl are the leading candidates for the treasurership. They have made no fight outside of the First ward, but they are making things warm over there. Each of the three has a ticket in each precinct, and Elmund has tickets of his own in some of the precincts. Dr. Whitney, who is the only candidate mentioned for coroner, is on all of the First ward tickets—or rather, he has delegates on all of the tickets, and he will have the ward without trouble. As to the leadership in the treasurer squabble, no one can tell how it will end, but Arosin was making very large claims. Lindahl is picked as the winner by the wise ones outside of the ward, but as no one outside the ward has the least idea of the practice of politics within the ward, their guess is the merest speculation.

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E. W. Bazille seems to be the only prominent candidate for judge of probate since Percy Godfrey withdrew. Bazille has the call on most of the Eighth ward delegation, and his opposition is not considered serious.

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There was a particularly rapid fight on for the county attorney nomination, and there is a possibility that Anderson, who was beaten to a finish a few days ago, may win out. McDonald has been obliged to make a combination with Percy Godfrey for the place of assistant. Both of them live in the Sixth ward, but in order to have the delegation from the West side in shape McDonald had to take Godfrey in and pledge the assistant's place to him. No sooner did this transpire than Horace Bigelow went out and made a combination of his own that will be potent in landing the Fourth for him. Bigelow is to be assisted by Assistant City Attorney Frank Griggs if he gets the place. The Fourth ward is for Griggs, and Bigelow made a pretty good deal. These combinations leave Zollman with Anderson, or standing by himself. He is a candidate if Anderson is in it, and he stands pat if Anderson is out of it. He may get the strength that was Anderson's originally, and will be something of a factor then, for he has a considerable following.

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The trouble that has been brewing over the nomination for abstract clerk has not made much of an impression on the campaign. It depended largely on what the big fellows could do, and the man who could deliver his ward was the one who would be listened to. W. S. Brill has his ward pat and the others have only sections of wards. Brill will undoubtedly get the nomination, unless something occurs in the trading that is bound to be indulged in after the principal officers are chosen.

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There has been some talk of opposition to E. G. Krahmer for register of deeds, but it has not crystallized, and he appears to be safe enough. There is no talk of anything like a fight, though William Densmore has been suggested.

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Judge Bunn, W. L. Chapin and E. A. Jaggard are the only candiates for the bench nominations. There is a fight between Jaggard and Chapin, but it is generally conceded that Jaggard is the stronger man and if Judge Bunn gets the first nomination Jaggard will undoubtedly get the second.

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In the meantime, Ed Rogers has his nomination all tied up and no one has even suggested putting anybody against him.

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With all the cross-firing in the various wards, there is bound to be trouble at some of the caucuses and contests galore. An attempt will be made to collect the returns from the primaries tonight and all the precinct chairmen will report to the Windsor hotel headquarters as soon as the primaries close.

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The Prohibitionists are making preparations for a rousing county convention next Thursday night at 462 Jackson street.

D. W. Doty, Prohibition candidate for attorney general, will speak, and it is probable that Geo. W. Higgins, of Minneapolis, candidate for governor, will also address the convention. Music will be furnished by the Prohibition quartette.

As the Prohibitionists are entitled to election judges again this fall, it is desired that all wishing to serve for them as election judges attend the county convention and place their applications with the chairmen of the various wards.

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Dr. Frank A. Xanten is out for the Democratic nomination for coroner. He lost the nomination before the county convention two years ago by seven votes and figures that with the advantage of past experience he may capture the prize. He will have the Sixth ward solidly at his back and is confident of support from other wards that will give him the nomination. Dr. Xanten is a German-American and stands high among the physicians of the city. He has lived in St. Paul sixteen years and surrounded himself with a host of friends.

COSTLY FIRE ON BAY STREET

SPINK & CO.'S VINEGAR FACTORY IS DESTROYED—LOSS $20,000

Dwelling Near By Also Ruined—But a Small Part of the Loss Covered by Insurance.

A mass of charred embers is all that is left of the vinegar factory of Frank H. Spink & Co., at the corner of Bay street and Butternut avenue. Fire broke out behind the boiler room of the factory at noon yesterday, and before the department could get a hose to the scene of the conflagration, the entire building was in flames, and was soon burned to the ground.

The Spink vinegar plant was situated on the river bank. It was valued at about $20,000, and is a total loss. A frame house next to the factory was almost totally distroyed. The house was owned by Joseph Kubart, and occupied by John Vanek. Kubart estimates his loss at $1,000, insured; while the loss on the household effects of Vanek is estimated at $200, he having saved a good deal of his furniture. Kubart's insurance is carried by the New Hampshire company, J. Quincy Haas, local agent.

The fire in the vinegar works was first discovered by Engineer A. Richard, who gave the alarm. A high wind prevailed at the time, and carried the flames into the building. Mr. Spink said that were it not for the wind a few buckets of water would have easily extinguished the blaze. The department was telephoned for, but, as the city water mains do not reach the locality, it took some time to establish a line of hose to the burning factory from the nearest main. By the time the firemen had made the line the building was already falling.

The junior partner of the concern is Arthur Gauthier, who is employed by the Banning Advertising company. Mr. Gauthier has charge of the insurance, but was unable to tell the amount last night. He estimates it somewhere in the vicinity of $5,000, and says that some of it is placed with the St. Paul Fire & Marine company.

The firm will probably rebuild.

HE PERHAPS KNEW HARMONY.

But Mrs. Kleist Evidently Detected Some Discordant Notes.

An amended complaint in the divorce proceedings instituted by Josephine Kleist against Paul Kleist was filed in the district court yesterday. Plaintiff charges defendant with neglect and infidelity.

Kleist was formerly the leader of a band and an orchestra in this city.

The wife wants a separation and the custody of a six-year-old daughter. She is thirty-four years, while the defendant is thirty-six years old.

DOGS WORTH $5 EACH.

State Board of Equalization Fixes a Standard of Values.

The state board of equalization devoted yesterday morning to the consideration of dogs, and decided that a dog that was not worth $5 was not worth anything. Accordingly, counties which had undervalued their canine wealth will be raised to that figure.

Olmsted county had neglected to return any dogs for taxation and State Auditor Dunn was instructed to require a report therefrom.

In the afternoon the protest of the people of Lake City against the 10 per cent raise which the county board made in their realty assessment was heard by a committee of the state board.

After hearing the argument of the committee present that the flat increase made was illegal, the committee of the state board took the matter under advisement for discussion at a later date, possibly tomorrow.

Today the hearing on the street railway company's assessment will be had.

GETS NO NEW TRIAL.

Mrs. Blanche Clare Stocking Will Not Be Set Free.

Orders filed in the Stocking divorce case by Judge Lewis yesterday deny Mrs. Stocking's motion for a new trial, and also refuse her request for money to defray the expense of a transcript of the testimony in the case, necessary to her appeal for a new trial. The court holds that the plea of errors in law urged by the defendant is unfounded, but orders a stay of proceedings on the part of the plaintiff for ten days.

At the time of the trial of the suit of Hobart M. Stocking against his wife, Blanche Clare Stocking, for divorce on the grounds of desertion, much interest attached to the proceedings, owing to the social position of the litigants. Mrs. Stocking filed a counter suit, making sensational charges against her husband.

Mr. Stocking won the suit and secured a verdict, when his wife moved for the new trial denied yesterday.

Suits Over Real Estate.

James Denegre has brought an action in the district court against Frederick Gutnecht et al. to quiet the title to the east 100 feet of block 130, West St. Paul proper addition.

Minnie Georing has brought suit in the district court against James Middleton to foreclose mortgages on certain pieces of property in Ramsey county.

Two Boys of Seven Held.

Peter King and C. Curren, two small boys, are under arrest, charged with stealing an old musket and an old coat from A. Dietrich, a peddler, at 207 Water street. Seven boys, ranging in age from seven to eleven years, were arrested and, in the municipal court yesterday, King and Curren were held for further investigation, while the others were set free.

Wood Yard Singed.

There was a small fire at 1:30 this morning in the wood yard of the Lehigh Valley Coal company, at the foot of Dale street, but it was quickly extinguished.

Attend the auction sale of West Fourth and West Third street property Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

WM. C. READ, Agent.
P. T. Kavanagh, Auctioneer.

Hotel Empire, New York, high-class hotel, moderate rates. See advertisement on another page.

NEWS OF RAILROADS

EARNINGS OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC CONTINUE TO INCREASE

A HEAVY WEEK'S BUSINESS

Flour Rates Are Again Causing the Lines Some Trouble—Report About the Attempt of a New York Firm to Secure a Controlling Interest in the Great Western Is News to President Stickney.

The gross earnings of the Northern Pacific for the second week in September show an increase of over $50,000 over the receipts for the corresponding week last year. This is a remarkable showing, as the receipts for the same week a year ago were higher than was ever before known in the history of that road. The movement of grain has not been as rapid as was expected, but the quantity awaiting shipment is larger than usual, so it is expected that the receipts will continue high for a number of weeks.

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Sept. 17 has a lengthy article analyzing the recently issued annual report of the Northern Pacific Railway company. Among other complimentary things it says:

The most effective method of showing the great change which has been established in the management of the company's property is to compare present train load statistics, mileage and revenue per train mile with those in the past. We need not go far back to discover evidences of the change. The transformation has in the main occurred during the last two years. We find from the report of the receivers for 1894-95 that in that year the road handled 3,781,316 tons; in 1897-98 it handled 4,951,183 tons, being an increase of over 30 per cent. The tonnage movement one mile in the same interval rose from 1,177,000,000 to 1,618,000,000, giving about the same ratio of increase. Yet with 30 per cent more tonnage, the freight train mileage was actually reduced over 1,000,000 miles. What does this mean? It means that the road moved 265 tons in each train in 1897-98, against only 164 tons in 1894-95. This in turn means that with a slightly lower average rate received the company's freight trains earned $1 more per mile in 1897-98 than in 1894-95, the comparison being $2.85 against $1.84. We doubt if so marked a change has ever been effected in so short a time on any other property.

B. & O. REORGANIZATION.

Receiver Cowen Talks Freely About the Big Railroad Deal.

BALTIMORE, Md., Sept. 20.—Receiver John K. Cowen arrived in Baltimore from Chicago, early this morning. In reply to questions Mr. Cowen said:

"It is true that a large interest—a very large interest—in the Baltimore & Ohio has been purchased by Messrs. Field, Hill, Ream and Armour, as well as other influential interests. As to those concerned and the amount of their purchase the reorganization managers can only answer. It is difficult to define a control. The class of men who have become interested in the property is of a character that would exercise a dominating influence. With them the stock of the Baltimore & Ohio is in stronger hands than ever before in its history. They are strong factors in the business world, and their interest in the road will be a decided advantage to the property. Anything that will improve the Baltimore & Ohio railroad will, by the very nature of the case, benefit Baltimore, as that city is its chief terminus. The talk of moving the general offices and Mount Clare shops from Baltimore is all moonshine. The progress of the reorganization of the property will not be affected in the slightest. Foreclosure proceedings and the legal formalities will be pushed, and as soon as these are settled, the organization of the new company will be completed. The new interests went into the property on the basis of the plan of reorgaization. They looked carefully over the field, and, believing the interest in the road to be a first-class investment, purchased it. The question as to the personnel of the new directory will be settled hereafter, and the new interests will be largely represented. Their purchase of the stock does not mean any railroad combination. It does not mean a transcontinental system in connection with the Great Northern. What it does mean is the fullest development of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. The road will not be tied to any road in the Northwest, but will continue to deal with all railroads and take business wherever it is found. The policy of betterments will be carried out, and the maximum traffic accounted for by providing the best facilities for handling the business."

The answers of the Mercantile Trust company, J. P. Morgan & Co., and the other New York capitalists interested in the reorganization of the Baltimore & Ohio railway to the petition of Johns Hopkins university, the state of Maryland and others seeking to defeat the reorganization plan, was filed this morning in the United States circuit court. The answer is a voluminous one and contains a denial of all the allegations in the petition mentioned.

PLAYING THE RUMORS.

Another Report About the Purchase of the Great Western.

Rumors of new deals in connection with the Baltimore & Ohio continue to fly around the city among railroad men and stock speculators. A new one came from Wall street yesterday afternoon when a local broker received a telegram from New York stating that Kuhn, Loeb & Co., had offered a price higher than the present market value for a controlling interest of Chicago Great Western stock. This was credited as indicative of a movement on the part of the recent purchasers of the Baltimore & Ohio to secure control of the Chicago Great Western as a connecting link in the Great Northern—Baltimore & Ohio system.

President Hill has already denied that he wants the Chicago Great Western or any other St. Paul-Chicago line, but in spite of it rumors to the contrary have been persistently circulated. A reporter for The Globe asked President Stickney, of the Chicago Great Western, about the latest report.

"An offer may have been made for the control of the Chicago Great Western," said Mr. Stickney, "but I have not received it. There are 2,000 to 2,500 stockholders in our road, but no single individual holds a controlling interest. My holdings are, perhaps, larger than any other individual's, and it would seem likely that an offer such as has been reported would be made to me. I have not heard of such an offer, however, and while I will not say it has not been made, I do not place much credence in the report."

It is argued by railroad men that Mr. Hill does not want a connecting link between St. Paul and Chicago on account of the antagonism which would immediately be inspired among the other roads. As long as the St. Paul-Chicago route is left open to competition the Great Northern will receive its share of business from each of the lines, but the moment he secures control of one as an exclusive connection for his two systems the other lines would withhold their business. Such was the case when the Northern Pacific tried to operate the Wisconsin Central as a line to Chicago, and history, it is believed, would repeat itself very quickly.

OPENING FOSSTON BRANCH.

A Big Event to Be Celebrated at West Superior.

WEST SUPERIOR, Wis., Sept. 20.—Information from Grand Forks this morning shows that at least 2,000 North Dakota business men and citizens will come to Superior tomorrow on the excursion which makes the formal opening of the Fosston branch of the Great Northern. The people of Superior are today making final arrangements for the visitors' entertainment, and the city is being decorated for the memorable occasion. President Hill and other prominent railroad men will be here to witness the formal opening of a branch of his great system, which is to make a great change in the current of traffic from Northern Minnesota and North Dakota. The Fosston branch traverses a rich new territory between Superior and Fosston, which will be quickly developed, and gives the Great Northern direct connection with its Dakota lines. A big cut in rates has already been announced to take effect the 25th, and lively competition will follow.

WISCONSIN CENTRAL BONDS.

Mr. Abbott Tells the Court Why He Should Retain Them.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Sept. 20.—The answer of Edward Abbott to the order of Judge Seaman requiring him to show cause why he should not surrender $924,000 of the joint and several improvement bonds of the Wisconsin Central Railroad company was filed late today. Mr. Abbott shows that during the panicky times of 1893 he lent his credit to the companies in order to carry their floating indebtedness, to the extent of $976,000. It was agreed, Mr. Abbott says, that he should be secured, and the bonds came to him in that way. Mr. Abbott insists that they are not applicable to the indebtedness of the companies, and are not to be considered as an asset, except by the way of substitution. He says he holds them subject to the order of the receivers, and the court, but insists they should be allowed to remain where they are, with Brown Brog. & Co., and not turned over to the trust company as prayed by Mr. Stewart.

Replying to the foreclosure suit instituted against the Wisconsin Central Railroad company by Mr. Stewart, Mr. Abbott repeats the allegations contained in his protest directed against the filing of the suit. He denies that the company is otherwise than technically insolvent, and insists that the property is more than ample to meet all the outstanding liabilities.

COULDN'T WAIT A DAY.

Italian Coudn't Understand the Delay of the Pay Car.

A gang of Italian laborers, employed on the Fosston extension of the Great Northern, arrived in the city yesterday without a cent of money. They were to have been paid off Monday, but by mistake pay day was postponed until today. The Italians, however, could not understand that the delay was due to untoward circumstances and that they would certainly receive their money; they determined that they would come to St. Paul and see President Hill about it. So down they came. A delegation visited Mr. Hill's office and was referred to General Superintendent Harding, but they got no further than the outer office. They were told to return to Crookston where they would be paid today, but they refused. They said they would wait here until they got their money and in the meantime they wanted pay for their board and lodging. They were indignant when told they could not be accommodated. An arrangement will be made to pay them here.

FLOUR RATES AGAIN.

Claimed That the Understanding Has Not Been Kept.

Flour rates are again in a tangle and very soon there will be held another series of meetings of the flour committee to adjust them.

It was thought that the last agreement of the flour lines would hold; a pool was formed and it was understood every line was satisfied with its precentages, but recent evidences of rate cutting have been shown and the lines that have suffered are determined to hunt down the guilty. The statements of several roads and the shippers do not tally and other suspicious circumstances have shown that rate cutting is going on again.

It does not seem necessary at this time to cut rates for the flour shipments are becoming heavier every week and there is enough for all the lnies.

TAKES F. B. CLARKE EAST.

Report Has Him Going to the Lake Shore With Mr. Newman.

Since General Traffic Manager F. E. Clarke, of the Great Northern, returned from New York, it has been rumored that he would shortly retire from his present position and become conected with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern and that his successor would be David Miller, vice president and general traffic manager of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas. No positive confirmation of this report could be obtained yesterday.

W. N. Newman, late vice president of the Great Northern, is now president of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern.

Re-elected Their Officers.

The board of directors of the Chicago Great Western met yesterday morning and re-elected the following officers for another year:

President, A. B. Stickney; vice presidents, Ansel Oppenheim, C. W. Benson, Arnold Kalman; secretary, R. C. Wight; treasurer, C. O. Kalman; general manager, S. C. Stickney.

Goes With Mr. Ward.

John Switzer, for several years stenographer to President Hill, of the Great Northern, has transferred his services to the Montana Central. He will act as secretary to Supt. A. E. Ward.

AT THE THEATERS.

Miss Dorothy Morton and her opera company repeated "Girofle-Girofla" at the Metropolitan last night to a large and demonstratively enthusiastic audience. The charming prima donna captured the house from the start, and scored another big hit. "Girofle-Girofla" will be repeated at the matinee this afternoon and for the performance tonight.

The management of the Metropolitan announces that owing to the tremendous success with which the Dorothy Morton opera company has scored in the comic opera, "Girofle-Girofla," it will be continued for the remainder of the week, including Saturday matinee and evening. "The Beggar Student" will be presented Sunday evening.

"Yon Yonson" is proving a great attraction and drawing card at the Grand this week, and no better presentation of this novel comedy drama has ever been given here. Today at 2:30 the first of the popular priced afternoon performances of the engagement will occur.

"The Commodore," a naval drama, will be at the Grand Sunday, Sept. 25, and all week. This play shows the glorious achievements of the navy during the late war with Spain, and does full justice to our gallant heroes.

Hoyt and Hill, the pretty soubrettes, scored another hit at the Palm aGrden last night. They are the features of an otherwise good variety performance.

Sues the Agent.

George G. Bates has sued G. H. Watson to recover $381.71 alleged to be due him for insurance premiums. He brings the action as successor to the Western Insurance company, of Pittsburg, Pa., for which concern, it is alleged, Watson solicited. R. M. Newport and Edward Simonton are alleged to have been on Watson's bond and are also named as defendants.

What a Train

For Dubuque is the Chicago Great Western "No. 6," leaving St. Paul 11:20 p. m., arriving Dubuque 9:10 a. m. Compare with other night trains that put you off at Dubuque at 4 o'clock in the morning. Office, Fifth and Robert streets, St. Paul.

Use the Long Distance Telephone to Minnesota, No. and So. Dakota cities and towns.

ARE CONNECTED UP

NORTHWESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SOME INDEPENDENT LINES JOIN INTERESTS

DEAL JUST CONSUMMATED

A Large Number of Towns Are Brought Within Talking Distance of St. Paul—A Move That May Cripple the Mississippi Valley Telephone Company—Facts as Given Out.

An arrangement has been made between the Northwestern Telephone company and a number of independent telephone companies operating in the southern and western part of Minnesota, Northern Iowa and South Dakota.

The independent companies to the agreement are the Western Electric system, the Western Electric Telephone company, the Minnesota Mutual Telegraph and Telephone company and all their allied companies, which include the Southern Minnesota and Southern Dakota telephone companies, the Union Electric Telephone company, the Western Minnesota and Minnesota Central Telephone companies.

The deal will give the Twin Cities telephone connections with about 400 towns and about 3,000 miles of long distance lines not before reached. The details of the arrangements were worked out in Minneapolis and made public by Supt. Wainman yesterday. The transfer of the lines of the Union Electric company, whose lines parallel the Northwestern, will be made today.

The parties to the agreement agree that their respective long-distance lines shall hereafter operate in harmony and in direct connection. They will be interconnected so that any town in the territory of any company which is a party to the agreement can get direct telephone connection with any other town or any of the wires of the allied companies.

The Northwestern Telephone company, as one part of the agreement, purchases the entire system of the Union Electric company, which is the only one of the independent companies in the deal whose lines are paralleled by those of the Northwestern. The amount of cash involved in the transaction is not given, but it is the only cash consideration. The rest of the agreement hinges upon mutual benefits. Each of the parties to the deal—the Northwestern people on the one hand and the independent people on the other expect mutually to profit by the new arrangement and get additional business. The independent people are to allow the Northwestern people to put the Bell instruments on the independent lines from end to end. The rental charged for them includes the cost of repairs, and is so small that the independent people say it is about as cheap as they can keep their present instruments in repair.

Connections will at once be made between the two systems wherever necessary, and within thirty days communication between all points on both systems will be open. Those most intimately concerned in the new deal promise that rates will be fair and equitable. They will be on the basis of "one rate." That means that where the use of the telephone involves both Northwestern and Independent lines, the rate will be the same as it would be for the same distance on the lines of one company.

This is said to be the first time a Bell company has ever entered into such an extensive arrangement with an independent system. Generally it has been the Bell policy to ignore or fight the independent companies. On the other hand, there is no transfer of stock and the independent companies maintain their separate existence and build and maintain their own lines, the adoption of Bell instruments practically brings them into the Bell ranks and makes a great inroad on the strength of the independents.

There is now left in the general territory outlined above not a single independent long distance line. The new alliance does not intend to combat local independent exchanges. They will be offered connections with the long distance lines if their service is good.

Charles Webster, general manager of the Western Electric system, returned yesterday from Boston, where he had obtained the signatures of the officials of the Northwestern exchange. He was met by J. F. Cass, of Sumner, Io., president of the Western Electric system; Thomas Way, general manager and treasurer of the Western Electric company, and D. N. Tallman, of Willmar, representing the Minnesota Central company.

The Minnesota Central company was granted a franchise by the St. Paul council last March, allowing it to enter the city with a long distance line. Resolutions designating streets on which the company could erect poles and string wire passed, but little, if any work has been done.

A bond in the sum of $5,000 was filed by the company and the ordinance accepted. The sureties on the bond were Charles Webster and David C. Jones.

At the same time the Minnesota Central company was granted a franchise one was also granted to the Mississippi Valley Telephone company for a local exchange. While there was no direct statement made at the time the intimation and understanding was that the Mississippi Valley company was to connect with its local exchange in St. Paul and Minneapolis, with the Minnesota Central long distance system.

The Mississippi Valley company is now at work in both cities putting in its local system, but the arrangement made between the Northwestern and independent companies, of which the Minnesota Central is one, would indicate that the Mississippi Valley company, even after its local exchanges are completed, will be without long distance connections.

One of the officials of the Northwestern company stated last evening that all the parties to the agreement were bound not to have any business relations with other companies, and if this is the case the Mississippi Valley company will have to construct its own long distance lines.

ST. PAUL BREVITIES.

Contagious Diseases—Scarlet fever was reported at the health office today existing at 1052 Rice, 200 West Fairfield and 120 West Elizabeth. Membranous croup at 616 Linden.

To Examine Barbers—The barbers' state board will hold examinations next week, beginning in Fergus Falls Monday; Crookston, Tuesday; Brainerd, Wednesday, and Duluth, Thursday.

Had a Close Call—A ball from an air gun in the hands of a boy shooting at a target, went through the window of Mrs. Margaret E. McNellis, 358 Smith avenue, last evening. The ball passed close to Mrs. McNellis, who was sewing near the window.

Bishop Gilbert With Them—The Rt. Rev. M. N. Gilbert, coadjutor bishop of Minnesota, will preach next Sunday evening at St. Peter's church, Dayton's bluff. The congregation are looking forward to this event with much pleasure, as the bishop's visit is always a "red letter day" at St. Peter's.

Call to Acker Post—Acker Post No. 21, G. A. R., are requested to assemble at Post hall Thursday (for exact time see morning papers), for the purpose of escorting Fourteenth Minnesota infantry from depot to Auditorium. All G. A. R. men, Sons of Veterans and other organizations are invited to join us. William O'Gorman, adjutant; P. Henry, S. V. Commander.

AT THE HOTELS.

ASTORIA—B. Denmann, H. Bennett, New York; A. T. Stewart, Chicago; Mrs. Donaldson, A. J. Forsythe and wife, Brainerd; W. E. Whiting, Helena; Hazard Bowling, Minneapolis; Wm. McGuin, Montreal; Jno. Burmeister, Spirit Lake; J. C. Morrison, Mora, Minn.; Wm. Stowe, Boston; O. A. Johnson, Thief River Falls.

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CLARENDON—E. Q. Maren, R. Harbaugh, Detroit; Henry Schwellenbach, Jamestown; L. D. Evans, H. Thies, D. E. Billings, Blue Earth City; E. Hohneck, Fergus Falls; J. Stack, A. Haynes, Taylor.

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