

A RAILROAD MANAGER'S ILLNESS.

MR. MERRILL, OF THE ST. PAUL SYSTEM,
·IN A PRECARIOUS CONDITION.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Sept. 20.—The continued serious illness of General Manager S. S. Merrill, of the St. Paul system, causes great apprehension among his immediate friends, who know the exact nature of his illness. He suffered a relapse about the 1st of this month, and since that time his condition has been extremely precarious. During the late soldiers' reunion here Mr. Merrill was caught in a rainstorm and was thoroughly drenched. The succeeding day he took a long ride in the country. He was just recovering from a serious illness of several months' duration, and over-exerted himself. The result was a second stroke of paralysis, rendering his arm and side useless. The attending physicians are fearful of another stroke, which would undoubtedly prove fatal. If it can be averted there are hopes of recovery, which will necessarily be very slow. Mr. Merrill is a man of wonderful constitution, but his age is against him in this fight. He is 65 years old. The last paralytic stroke affected the muscles of his head, and he was flighty for several days. This feature has been quite alarming. The sufferer is receiving the closest and best medical treatment the country affords, and his thousands of friends over the Northwest all hope that he will finally master the aggravating and distressing disease that has attacked him.

Mr. Merrill is one of the best known railroad men in the country. He has been the General Manager of the vast St. Paul system continuously since 1865. A year prior he was the Manager of the Winona and St. Peter Road, having gone to it after long years of service on the St. Paul. After a short experience he was induced to return to his first and last love. With the exception of a few days spent at his desk, just before his second stroke, Mr. Merrill has not been able to perform the duties of his office for nearly a year.

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