

## ST. PAUL SALARIES CUT.

ST. PAUL, March 8.—For some months railroad men have been predicting a reduction of salaries on Northwestern railroad lines, but it will occasion no little surprise that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul should be the first to put such a plan into effect. Last Wednesday a secret order went forth reducing wages of a large number of employes  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. The exact number affected by the cut is not known, but it is understood that the reduction is confined principally to the agents and clerks. At the same time there is a feeling that all the other employes of the road will be called upon shortly to share in the retrenchment.

Some of the English stockholders have been investigating the condition of the road with an energy that even President Miller's visit to England failed to pacify, and recently certain representatives of the foreign ownership have been in this country. A special meeting of the Board of Directors has been called for next Tuesday in Milwaukee. Such a call is quite unprecedented in the history of the road. It has given rise to the belief that the dissatisfaction with the management of the road has taken a definite form. Some observers think that a Receiver is being talked about, and others think a change of management has been determined upon. In the recent financial statement the gross earnings for 1888 showed a decrease of \$500,000, while operating expenses were increased \$2,000,000, in spite of the heavy reductions in the working force made during the year.

A curious thing about the present reduction of salaries is that it is retroactive, the order having been issued on March 6, to take effect on March 1.

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