

# NEWS OF THE RAILWAYS

## Presidents' Conference Adjourns to Meet in Chicago.

### Special Sub-Committees Appointed to Adjust Freight and Passenger Tariff Differences.

The general conference of Western railroad Presidents met again yesterday morning and received the report of the special committee, which had been appointed to look into differences in regard to freight and passenger traffic. After some discussion over this report the conference came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to dispose of the many important subjects in the short time remaining yesterday. It was, therefore, decided to adjourn and meet again at Chicago June 19.

This adjournment of the conference, together with the recommendations of the special committee, are taken to indicate that the situation in freight and passenger affairs presented more difficulties than were expected, and that the disagreements between certain roads are more serious than the officials have been willing to admit.

President Jeffery, Chairman of the conference, however, expressed the belief yesterday that a harmonious settlement of all differences would be reached at the adjourned conference. In order to insure this result the work of preparing a basis for a settlement of the various disputes was intrusted to four committees, each to have jurisdiction within certain boundaries.

The first of these is the Kansas City committee, of which S. M. Felton, President of the Chicago and Alton, is Chairman; the second is the Omaha and Sioux City committee, with A. C. Bird, Vice President of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, as Chairman; the third is the St. Louis committee, of which B. F. Yoakum, the newly-elected President of the St. Louis and San Francisco, is Chairman, and the fourth is the St. Paul and Minneapolis committee, with J. T. Clark, Vice President of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, in the chair.

The last committee will have to settle the dispute about reduced passenger rates between the St. Paul-Chicago lines and the "Soo" Line. An amicable settlement is expected in view of the announcement made by Mr. Jeffery, that both the Canadian and the Mexican railroads had agreed to work in harmony with the American lines. The attitude of the Canadian Pacific having been considered especially aggressive by some of the Western railroads, this announcement by President Jeffery gave much satisfaction, and it is generally considered one of the most important steps toward the ultimate restoration and maintenance of the tariff rates.

A report of the Committee on the Anti-Commission Agreement was also received. Chairman Felton of that committee stated that this agreement was well maintained. That part of the report referring to special rates for certain events and for military business was referred to a committee.

When the adjournment was taken yesterday the general impression seemed to be that there would be a continuance of the pledges to maintain published tariff rates and to conform to lawful methods in the conduct of traffic, which the Western roads have made to each other and to the Inter-State Commerce Commission from time to time.