

G. H. Heafford with a New Road.

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 25.—George H. Heafford, formerly General Passenger Agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, has been elected First Vice President, and General Manager of the Morning Star Railway Company. This company, having a capitalization of \$2,500,000, intends to build a line to develop the zinc deposits in Northern Arkansas.

Brief Railroad Items.

A further reduction has been made by the lines between Pittsburg and New York in freight rates on iron and steel from that point. The new rate is 9 cents per 100 pounds on these products.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad yesterday celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its existence. Fifty years ago the first train was run from Milwaukee to Waukesha, a distance of twenty miles, over what was then the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, and which was the beginning of the present Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul system.

It is reported that the local committees of the Western trunk lines are to be reorganized. It is said that so much has constantly leaked out about the transactions, especially of the Kansas City Committee, that its usefulness has been impaired. It is proposed hereafter to do away with all records of its proceedings as much as possible. It is said that on account of the publicity of the transactions several roads withdrew from the Kansas City Committee. These are expected to return when the committee is reorganized.

The Southwestern Passenger Association at its meeting on Feb. 28 at St. Louis will discuss the question of carrying mercantile samples as baggage and of a system of interchangeable excess baggage books.

The Western Presidents' conference, which was to have taken place on March 6, has been postponed for one month, because the Presidents of some of the most important systems are unable to attend at the regular date.

It is expected that the question of adjusting fares to Chicago via the differential lines in order to make them conform to those over the Erie Railroad will be taken up at the meeting of the Trunk Line Passenger Committee to-day.

Transcontinental railroads will put into effect immediately an agreement for a new basis of military traffic rates. The agreement stipulates that no road shall make a bid for the transportation of soldiers to and from San Francisco at less than an agreed basis which is higher than the thirty-dollar tourist rate in effect every Tuesday. It is believed that this action on the part of the railroads is due to an alleged attempt of the Government to apply the new tourist rate as a basis, which would reduce the net cash rate from Chicago to San Francisco from \$28 to \$19, after making all deductions on account of roads aided with bond issues or land grants.