

REORGANIZING A POOL.

THE MISSOURI RIVER PASSENGER ASSOCIATION REVIVED.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The representatives of the roads in the Missouri River Passenger Association to-day reorganized the association, so as to include all the lines in the old organization except the Chicago and Northwestern and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. The new association bears the same name as the old one, and is established on practically the same basis. It covers the same territory, with the exception mentioned, and is, if anything, stronger than the old association. It is agreed that the lines concerned shall act as a unit, through the arbitrator, in dealing with all questions of rates, &c., within the scope of the association. The lines between Chicago and Council Bluffs specially agree to maintain the present tariff, and to act only through the arbitrator in meeting competition. The latter clause is to prevent demoralization in case the Milwaukee and St. Paul, which is now fancy free, should attempt to cut rates. There is little danger of this, however, as the Rock Island has a whip hand on the Milwaukee and St. Paul by reason of its St. Paul branch. It is its desire to protect its St. Paul business: which has caused the Milwaukee and St. Paul to part company with the Missouri River Association, or rather it was because the association would not protect this business that the Milwaukee and St. Paul decided to flock by itself. The Chicago and Northwestern would have joined the association to-day had not the association limited its membership to roads having an outlet south of Council Bluffs. It is thought likely, however, that the Northwestern will be admitted on special terms.

The agreement made to-day dates from Feb. 1, and runs to Dec. 31 next, and one year thereafter any road having the privilege after Dec. 31 of withdrawing on 30 days' notice. The question of division of expenses and the selection of an arbitrator was left to a special committee.

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