

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Railroad rates on Western lines are being closely maintained. Roswell Miller, President of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and President of the Advisory Board of the Western Traffic Association, said to-day:

"In my opinion tariffs for both freight and passenger traffic are being better maintained by the Western railroad companies than at any time since the Inter-State commerce law was passed and became operative in 1887. For a short time after the law went into effect tariffs were pretty closely adhered to. Then there was a break. There was another period of close maintenance immediately after the formation of the Inter-State Commerce Railway Association about two years ago. Then things took a bad turn, but now I think that everybody is maintaining rates steadily and observing the Inter-State commerce law."

It was reported yesterday that the Chicago and Alton, Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City, and Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Roads had been prevailed upon to join the Western Traffic Association, thereby completing a solid array of all the roads west of Chicago and St. Louis in the new association. Mr. Nailer and Marvin Hughett, Chairman of the special committee appointed to secure, if possible, the signatures of the three roads to the agreement, said that this report was not true. While it is not likely that any one of the three roads will join the Western Traffic Association at present, there is little to fear from them, at least while other roads maintain rates. The roads are members of the Western Freight and Western Passenger Associations. The agreements governing these two associations are ample, if adhered to, to govern the three roads named, and their signing the Western Traffic Association agreement would not amount to very much while they remain in the auxiliary organizations and show a disposition to live up to old agreements.

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