

THE TRIPARTITE POOL PLANS.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 10.—The telegram conveying the announcement by Manager S. S. Merrill, of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, that his road would not enter any pool agreement on Omaha business which could not include all of the roads in the Iowa trunk line association has placed an entirely different appearance on the Union Pacific-Rock Island-St. Paul "tripartite" arrangement from that of a few days ago. Manager Merrill is now at Omaha in company with General Freight Agent Bird, where he was called on Saturday on matters entirely outside of the pending pool agreement, it is said. It is possible that the visit may have greater significance in the pool matter than was supposed, and it is certain that if the pool agreement between the Union Pacific, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and Rock Island and Pacific is not to be made, it creates a state of affairs entirely different from that which existed a short time ago. The agreement referred to was drawn up at Chicago to be in force for a long term of years, and it needed only the signatures of the proper representatives of the three railway lines named to make it binding and in force. It was understood that the signatures were to be placed thereon at a meeting held in New-York last week, and on Friday it was understood that this last part in the arrangement had been performed. The present indication is that such was not the case, and it appears that opposition on the part of Union Pacific Directors was the barrier to any action being taken. A meeting of the Directors was held, as expected, but it is said to have been a most stormy one, and so strongly were some of the Directors opposed to it that no action could be taken. A report is current in Chicago that the Milwaukee and St. Paul has also weakened regarding the agreement, and is now inclined to let it go by the board, but should this be the fact the road will certainly not enter the Iowa Trunk Lines Association again, unless it does so upon equal terms with the other roads for the passenger business. The Rock Island is the only one of the other four roads opposing this request, and it is generally believed that it will not abandon its opposition in this respect, particularly as it has been one of the foremost in bringing about the now reported to-be-abandoned "tripartite" agreement. Report further indicates that should the Rock Island insist upon excluding the Milwaukee and St. Paul from the Omaha passenger pool the other roads will join hands and leave the Rock Island out in the cold.

The New York Times

Published: December 11, 1883

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