

RAILROADS REDUCE WAGES.

Important Action by the Milwaukee and Eastern Illinois Companies.

CHICAGO, Aug. 1.—The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois gave notice to-day that the salaries of all their officers and employes of general and local offices would be reduced 10 per cent. This action, it is claimed, is necessitated by the continued decrease in the earnings of the roads.

The reduction by the Milwaukee and St. Paul Road caused general surprise, not only to those immediately affected, but to disinterested outsiders, as the company's financial statement published yesterday showed an increase in net earnings for the month of June of over \$200,000.

The earnings for the year ending June 30 were \$18,000 in excess of the earnings for the year previous, which was one of the best years in the history of the company.

President Roswell Miller, asked about the matter, said that the earnings for June were apparently large because the business done in June last year was unusually small. Nearly all the earnings of last year had to be put into necessary improvements. The earnings for July, he said, now indicated a decrease of over \$150,000, and there was no business in sight.

The action now taken he regarded as the commencement of a general reduction of the rates of pay which must necessarily result from the falling off in the revenues of the railways. The pay of trainmen and other employes on the tracks and in the shops had not yet been reduced, but if the present condition of affairs did not show an improvement, they also would have to be reduced.

BROOKLYN BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Chairmen of the Committees Appointed and Financial Report Presented.

The regular monthly meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Education was held yesterday afternoon, and President James B. Bouck announced his committee appointments for the coming year. The following are the Chairmanships: Finance—Lynch; Teachers—Simis; Law—King; Schoolhouses—McNamee; Heating and Ventilating—Guilfoyle; Libraries—Drummond; Supplies—Ferris; Printing—Cacciola; Evening Schools—Thompson; Studies—Aubrey; School Books—Thompson; Music—Somers; Drawing—Powell; Attendance—Hubbs; Sites and Localities—Weir; Health—Black; Rules and Regulations—Stewart; Girls' High School—Gates; Boys' High School—Culyer; Training School—McLean; Free Scholarships—Swanstrom; Eastern District Library—Walsh; Credentials—Schimmel.

The Committee on Finance made a report on the board's financial condition up to Aug. 1. This showed that the balance on hand July 1 was \$876,346.69; receipts from State appropriation and other sources, \$394,508.38; by refund, \$277.68; by transfer, \$24,000; expenditures by warrants, July, \$39,500.27; to transfer, \$24,000. Balance on hand Aug. 1, \$1,231,632.48.

The Finance Committee was authorized to transfer \$10,000 from any available account for fuel.

TO TEST AN IMPROVEMENT LAW.

Controller Myers Enjoined from Issuing Bonds for the Park Avenue Viaduct.

When the law providing for the Park Avenue improvement, which includes the construction of a viaduct for the tracks of the New-York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the Harlem, and the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad, was passed, it provided that the city should pay half of the expense if it did not exceed \$750,000. President E. P. Barker of the Tax Department raised the question as to the constitutionality of the law under Section 11, Article VIII, of the State Constitution, which prohibits any city or town from lending its credit to any individual, corporation, or association.

The matter was referred to Corporation Counsel William H. Clark, who decided that, as the improvement would open streets that had heretofore been interrupted by the tracks of the railroads, it would be a public improvement, and that the law was constitutional.

Bunker Felice Tocci has taken exception to this decision, and through his attorney, Albert Reynaud, has secured an injunction from the Supreme Court preventing the Controller from issuing any bonds to pay the city's share of the expenses. This injunction was served on the Controller yesterday. It is returnable Aug. 9, and the question of the constitutionality of the law will be decided by the court.

Services in Memory of Donald M'Naughton.

CHICAGO, Aug. 1.—Religious services were held this morning in the New-York State Building in memory of Donald McNaughton, executive officer of the Board of Managers, who died last Sunday. The American flag over the porch was draped and black cloth was twined around the pillars. The flags on all the State buildings were at half mast.

Eight State Commissioners represented the boards of all the States, and many personal friends and acquaintances were present. The services were conducted by the Rev. S. J. McPherson. The musical part of the service was rendered by the Iowa State Band and two of the Schubert Lady Quartet.

The body goes to New-York in a private car over the Michigan Central Railway. The only members of the New-York Board in Chicago yesterday were John Boyd Thacher, Louis Meredith Howland, and John Foord. They accompany the remains eastward.

Trouble Among the Cattle Men.

PARIS, Texas, Aug. 1.—There is serious trouble among the cattle men in the Panhandle. As usual, it is a fight between big ranchmen, representing English syndicates, and the owners of the smaller ranches. Water is scarce, and, as the syndicates have all the principal streams fenced in, the smaller cattle men are shut off from water, and they have proceeded to cut fences and open the way for their suffering stock to quench their thirst.

Rangers are patrolling the country and the cattle men are up in arms and insist that the water shall be open to all. On Saturday a man representing the English syndicate was shot dead in the station at Childress by one of the Beckams, who own a large ranch and are leading the fight against the syndicates.

Hogs Fed on Wheat.

FOSTORIA, Ohio, Aug. 1.—A large number of farmers in this vicinity are feeding their wheat to hogs rather than sell it at the low prices now ruling. Hogs are quoted at \$5 to \$7 a hundred according to grade, and it is estimated that a bushel of wheat, properly ground and prepared and fed with a little other food to give variety, will put from fifteen to twenty pounds of flesh on a healthy hog.

This being the case, the farmer can easily realize \$1 a bushel for his wheat and save the trouble of hauling it to market.

The Troops Withdrawn.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—An order was issued at the War Department to-day detaching Capt. Carpenter and the troops under his command from further duty at the Puyallup Indian Reservation in Washington. The troops were ordered there some time ago at the request of the Interior Department to prevent the unlawful construction of a railroad through the reservation. Mr. Ross, the man building the road, took the matter to the courts and got an injunction preventing the interference of the military.