

NEW FREIGHT ASSOCIATION

JOINT TRAFFIC RULINGS FOR SOUTHEASTERN RAILROADS.

Headquarters to be in Atlanta, and will be in operation by May 1st—Business Flat in the West.

Washington, D. C., April 30.—The Southeastern Freight Association has been formally organized here and officers elected. The articles of agreement are similar in all respects to those of the Southeastern Passenger Association formed yesterday.

Samuel P. Parrott was elected chairman of the association, and Major J. W. Thomas permanent chairman of the board. Mr. Parrott was elected general manager of the Southeastern Railway, and Colonel Thomas is president of the Mobile and Atlantic Railroad. The Western companies were represented at the meeting.

The association will begin operation May 1. The headquarters will be at Atlanta. Mr. Edwin F. Hawley, of New York, president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis, and assistant traffic manager of the Southern Pacific, has returned from a twenty-two days' trip to California to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Pacific Company in San Francisco.

Mr. Hawley visited all the principal California coast points, and on his way home stopped over in Salt Lake City, Denver and St. Louis.

"Business all through the West, and particularly on the Pacific coast, is virtually flat," said Mr. Hawley, "and so far as I was able to judge, the people like these in every respect to those here. Everywhere, business was very poor, and complaints were general about the hard times. Even in San Francisco the business depression was most noticeable. In Salt Lake, Denver and St. Louis the hard times prevailed, but the merchants generally were hopeful that a revival was at hand."

"The Pacific roads are not doing a very heavy business. The Central Pacific is not moving any tonnage to speak of, for the reason that the mining interests along its line which used to form a great source of revenue are not working. On the Southern Pacific copper, however, is king, and the road is doing a big business in that metal. The far west shows evidence of the hard times everywhere. The Duncley bill is annoying the commercial branches, and merchants are anxiously waiting to see how it will end."

AT HER SON'S GRAVE.

Bullet Ends the Sad Life of a Bereaved Mother.

New York, April 30.—There passed through the gates of Greenwood Cemetery just about noon yesterday a sad-faced, blue-eyed little woman, no longer young, but still retaining in her features traces of the beauty that once made her name known. She wandered among the graves for more than an hour, and then climbed to the summit of Lookout Hill. There is the marble mausoleum that holds the body of James Gordon Bennett the elder. Upon the steps leading to this tomb the woman sat down for a last look at the beauty of life, the lilies and the pansies blooming in this place of the dead.

Several of the employees of the cemetery noticed her sitting there, but none of them approached her. By and by she drew from the little hand satchel she carried a memorandum pad and wrote on it a phrase in French. It was something about God never raising her from the dust.

A little while after that a gardener at work nearby heard a shot. Running to where he had seen the woman sitting, he found her with a bullet hole in her right temple and in her hand a little silver-mounted revolver. She was still alive, but unconscious. An ambulance hurried with her to the Norwegian Hospital, where she died within an hour without having spoken. Unlike most of the cases of self-destruction that hospitals know, it was evident that poverty was not the cause of the suicide. The woman's gown was of dark blue cashmere in the latest fashion. The underclothing she wore was of the black material, trimmed with costly lace.

She was identified last night as Henrietta Weidner by her brother, John Hoppe, of No. 122 Hudson street, Hoboken. She had long suffered, her brother said, from mental depression. Early in 1893 her son and only child died. He was buried in Greenwood in a grave adjoining the Bennett plot. The mother had never fully recovered from the blow.

Mrs. Weidner had not lived with her husband for some time. He was a fire-truck manufacturer, but was ruined in the panic of 1873. He took to drink then and his wife left him. Mr. Weidner lived at Old Point Comfort, while his wife lived at No. 452 Manhattan avenue, Greenpoint.

On November 16, 1893, she attempted to kill herself at the grave of her son. She fired two shots. One cut her scalp and the other entered close to one of her eyes. She was expected to die, but finally recovered.

It Costs Great Britain Over \$6,000,000 to Dress Its Soldiers.

The British government spends \$6,000,000 annually for clothing furnished its army all over the world. Each of the foreign possessions, however, has to pay back to a certain extent the amount which the uniforms of the troops stationed or sent there has cost, and this entails no end of complicated book-keeping.

India, for instance, pays for the clothing of its own troops, and also for uniforms of the men which England sends there. The latter item is about \$75,000 annually. On the other hand, when a regiment comes home from India, that country has to be paid back the full value of the clothes they wear.

The government sells old and worn-out articles to the second-hand dealers, who, by the way, usually accumulate fortunes in a short time. The value of cast-off clothes so disposed of is about \$10,000 yearly. The scraps remaining after the uniforms have been cut out also bring a matter of \$30,000 annually. In all the authorities receive back about \$1,500,000, thus reducing the total cost of clothing the army to less than \$5,000,000 a year.

The best quality of everything is used in the manufacture of uniforms. In fact, it is said they are too good for durable wear. A huge factory in Fimlico, London, makes a large share of the furnishings, but vast quantities of foot and head gear are bought ready made. Boots and leggings, for example, cost \$1,165,000 and head-dresses, \$250,000.

The thousands of miles of flannel, linen, calico, cloth, velvet, etc., the millions of buttons, the tons of cotton wool, the billions of yards of sewing cotton, that are made into smart tunics, tidy trousers and warm shirts cost \$2,425,000. The wages paid for making these up are over \$5,000 a week. Some of the salaries paid for this branch are excellent for England. The inspector of clothing receives \$6,000, and his assistants \$2,750 apiece, and so on down the long list.

But all this vast expense is probably much less than the annual outlay that France or Germany makes for keeping its soldiers smart in appearance in times of peace. In Germany, for example, every man in the army is said to have four complete suits of military clothing.—New York Journal.

Ex-State Treasurer Arrested.

Omaha, Neb., April 30.—The Sheriff of this county to day arrested ex-State Treasurer Joseph Bartley on the charge of embezzling \$201,000 of State money, and he will be arraigned in the Omaha Police Court to answer to the charge. The information upon which the warrant was issued was filed late yesterday afternoon by Attorney-General Smith. The warrant was at once drawn up and placed in the Sheriff's hands for service.

In the information Bartley is charged with having converted to his own use the proceeds of a State warrant for \$180,000, and the interest is added to it. This warrant was for the amount of money appropriated by the 1895 Legislature to reimburse the sinking fund of the State for deficiencies therein. The history of the warrant is interesting.

That amount of money was stolen in 1892 by Charles Mosher, President of the Capitol National Bank of Lincoln, and he served a penitentiary sentence for it. Another appropriation was made to reimburse the fund. After the warrant was drawn the State Treasurer brought it to this city and turned it over to the Omaha National Bank for the purpose of sale. This institution succeeded in placing it with the Chemical National Bank, of New York city. The proceeds were transferred to Bartley, upon whose books, however, no account of the receipts of the money has been found.

In due course of time the Chemical National Bank returned the warrant to the Omaha National Bank, of this city, for collection. In response to this call, the State Treasurer proceeded to deposit State funds in the Omaha National Bank until the sum of \$201,000 was on deposit. This was the amount of the warrant, together with interest at the rate of 7 per cent.

With this money the warrant was duly taken up, and the accruing interest was paid. The only feature of the case is that Bartley is already out on a \$50,000 bail bond charged with a shortage of \$500,000.

The attorney general says that as this transaction was clearly illegal and occurred in Omaha, the trial must occur here.

Humming Birds Board a Ship.

San Francisco, April 27.—A horde of pirates boarded the steamer Walla Walla, just now in port here, when she was fifteen miles off Cape Mendocino. There were about 200 of them, and they swarmed over the vessel, laying about them to right and left, and plunging their long swords into everything that seemed of value. Their gorgeous plumage fluttering about the deck made the ship seem like a bird fancier's shop, for these pirates were a big flock of humming birds with a stiff land breeze behind them. They had burst suddenly out of a dense fog, and alighted on the vessel at dusk on Friday.

The birds seemed so nearly dead with hunger and fatigue that they had lost all fear of human beings. They had probably been driven off shore by the land breeze and lost in the fog. Some of them perched on the first solid articles they saw, gave two or three little gasps, and then tumbled over dead. Some went straight for the heads of two or three women passengers who wore flowers in their hats, and began buzzing about them as industriously as if the flowers contained nectar. One flew into the ear of Mr. W. S. McFarland, and lodged there so tightly that it could not get out without assistance. Third mate Hogan caught one in his ear and one on his mustache, and neither bird lost a moment before it began to drill for food.

The captain and the passengers quickly did all they could to care for the half-starved creatures. They brought out pans of water and bread crumbs and lumps of sugar, and the birds made haste to fill themselves. Some of them ate until they were so full that they rolled over on their sides and lay on the deck, blinking happily at all around them. Lumps of sugar soaked in water were their greatest delight, but these they would not eat unless the lumps were held in some one's half-closed hand. Capt. Wallace held a lump of sugar in his mouth and two of the birds buzzed about his face and sucked at the sugar greedily. The captain kept twenty of the birds in his cabin over night, and many of the passengers had a dozen each in their rooms. When the vessel was close to Point Reyes the next day most of the birds were liberated, and as soon as they looked about and saw land many flew directly to it. But about fifty did not care to risk even so short a journey over the ocean wave, and decided to stick to the ship. But the sea voyage following the hardships and exhaustion of the day before, was too much for the frail little things, and they gradually became weak and died. When the Walla Walla came into port here yesterday the captain still had four humming birds alive, and the passengers had as many more.

Arizona Civilization Grows Effete.

From City Government. A recent important event in the municipal progress of Phoenix, Ariz., called forth the following comment from one of the local newspapers: "With the introduction of the Game-well system passes away the time-honored practice of giving notice of a fire by the discharge of revolvers. A fire was always a disclosure that a considerable part of Phoenix's population were habitual violators of the law against carrying concealed weapons. It made no difference when or where it broke out, no fire was ever started in Phoenix which was not immediately followed by a fusillade."

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