

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

MAERICOAN.

WASHINGTON, 19.—At the opening of the Hill investigation, Thomas announced that his engagements compelled him to retire temporarily from the case.

A circular was issued to-day from the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, officially notifying postmasters throughout the United States of the reduction in postage rates, to take effect on the 1st of October, and directing them to make preparations for it. Postmasters are notified that it is desirable to have as small a stock of the present three cent stamps and stamped envelopes as possible on hand when the reduction goes into effect. They are accordingly instructed to limit their requisitions for stamps and envelopes of this denomination to such quantities as upon careful estimate they may deem sufficient to last until the 1st of October. He also directs that as no arrangements have been made for the redemption of three cent stamps and envelopes in the hands of postmasters, or for exchange by postmasters of these stamps and envelopes in the hands of private holders, until further notice postmasters will not make exchanges for the public nor return to the Department the stock that remains on their hands after October 1st. Postmasters are, however, notified that as two and three cent stamps and envelopes of the present issue will continue to be valid after that date, they must be accepted in payment of postage when offered in the proper amount; that three cent stamps can be used in combination with other denominations on letters requiring more than one rate, and on parcels; also announces that the Department will be ready to issue two cent stamps of the new design on the 15th of Sept., but these stamps and envelopes must not be placed on sale or used by postmasters before October 1st. Also, that no three cent stamps will be issued after Sept. 14th unless the requisition therefor is accompanied by the statement that they are needed for immediate use; that the fully supply asked for will become exhausted by October 1st. Further, that no three cent stamped envelopes will be sent after the 31st of August unless requisitions for them are accompanied by a similar statement. The circular further instructs postmasters as to the design for the new two cent and four cent stamped envelopes. It notifies them that the prices for envelopes, exclusive of postage, will remain the same as at present; that no change will be made in postage due stamps; that rates on drop letters will remain the same as at present.

A telegram was received at the Department of State to-day from Campbell, U. S. Consul at Monterey, dated Laredo, Texas, confirming the press report of the assault upon Shaw while acting as Consul at Monterey.

Governor Foster and ex-Speaker Keifer are in Washington on business connected with the internal revenue service in Ohio.

The Treasury Department to-day purchased 469,000 ounces of silver for delivery to the San Francisco, New Orleans and Philadelphia mints.

NEW YORK, 19.—At about 10.30 o'clock this morning, a spark from an engine fell into a pile of fute which had just been landed on Harbeck's dock from the ship *Lawrence Dilop* from Calcutta. The dock was filled with heaps of jute and coffee. The flames spread with rapidity, and in a few minutes the entire dock was ablaze. *Dilop* was the first vessel to catch fire, and all her rigging was burned before she could be towed out. Next to her on the south side of the dock was the ship *Perseverance*, also from Calcutta, which arrived yesterday; and on the north side lay the ship *Col. Adams* from Calcutta. To both of these vessels the flames communicated, and the crew jumped overboard for safety. When the firemen reached the deck the supports of the roof gave way, burning over a dozen firemen and dockhands beneath the ruins. A rescuing party was quickly formed, and the men dragged out from the blazing rafters; none dead, but all more or less burned and bruised. Just then a break occurred in the crowd and the chief of the battalion gave orders, "Clear the dock," as the ship *Lawrence Dilop* which was now on fire above and below contained 4,600 pounds of salt-

petre. A rush was made by the crowd to the further end of the dock. While this was going on, a hoisting derrick from which the supports had been burned, fell over on the wharf with a crash, knocking two dockmen overboard.

Custom House Inspector Haradin, in attempting to escape from the ship *Col. Adams*, was severely burned about the face and hands. The ships *Perseverance* and *Col. Adams* had by this time been towed far out into the stream, and the firemen were pouring streams into their holds. The efforts of the firemen were mainly directed to extinguish the flames on board the *Lawrence Dilop*, on which it was momentarily feared an explosion would take place. At 11.50 she was still blazing fiercely, but the extent of the losses were unknown, though undoubtedly heavy.

Later.—The district officer at Harbeck's Docks stated that the captain of the *Lawrence Dilop*, with his wife and three children, was reported drowned. Two dock hands were also reported drowned, and one sailor killed by falling timber. The loss is now estimated at between two and three million dollars.

Three men were seen to throw the trunk of Captain Grove of the ship *Lawrence Dilop* overboard, containing £2,000 and \$4,000 worth of jewelry belonging to his wife. It was picked up by river thieves who rifled it. The wife and child of Grove were saved. Twelve firemen were badly injured by the falling in of the burning roof of the pier, but only one is thought to be fatally hurt. The ship *Dilop* was burned to the water's edge. She was valued, with cargo, at \$150,000. The ship *Col. Adams* was burned at the pier. The bark *Perseverance* floated into the stream and burned to the water's edge. The total loss is now estimated at \$1,000,000.

WASHINGTON, 19.—At 1 p.m., ten men of the Western Union Telegraph Company's day force in the Washington office had stopped work; nine were yet in the office, but the manager was not sure that all would remain. Nearly all the members of the night force are congregated on the sidewalk at or near the office. Members of the Brotherhood connected with the Baltimore & Ohio Company are all out.

It is rumored here that the report that General Grant had dropped dead on the street in New York was the signal agreed upon to communicate to the operators the instant to strike, it being well understood that the operators might be relied on to spread that story rapidly. An active officer of the Brotherhood is authority for the statement that no strike is to be apprehended from the operators working wires leased by brokers, newspapers or private individuals, where such operators are employed and paid by the lessees, unless an attempt is made by the Western Union Company to utilize these operators in handling matter connected with business for such private firms.

Chicago, 19.—Reports received by officials of the company here from superintendents at various points are to the following effect:

Cincinnati—Everything working elegantly in this district; every office fully equipped except Cincinnati; have 85 operators now and more coming.

St. Louis.—Working every circuit; 69 operators, the full day force, on duty.

Cleveland—Good working forces on duty at Cleveland, Detroit, and Toledo, and more coming in.

Minneapolis—All circuits manned by 3 p.m.

Omaha—Will have nearly the full force at principal points by to-morrow morning; any number of volunteers. Don't worry about this district.

San Francisco—Full regular force, 28; 16 joined the strike. All vacancies will be filled to-night.

St. Joseph—Full force returned to work; claim it was through a misunderstanding.

Des Moines—Only one striker.

The report from the Indianapolis district, embracing Indiana, Western Ohio and Eastern Illinois, shows all points except three or four with full forces.

F. H. Tubbs, superintendent of the Chicago district, reports 80 good operators at work immediately after the strike, and business practically clear at 3 o'clock, with constant accessions to the rank. The Wheatstone system between Chicago and New York has worked to its fullest capacity ever since the strike, and is doing "excellent work." Reports from the Chicago district, embracing most of Illinois, Wisconsin,

Minnesota, Iowa and Dakota, show nearly full forces at most points, and the business generally clear.

New Orleans, 19.—Of 42 operators employed by the Western Union in this city 37 struck. The company obtained five other operators, enabling it to handle press reports and a quantity of general business.

New York, 19.—The general business of the Western Union Company was in such a satisfactory condition this evening that General Eckhart, acting president, went home as usual to Long Branch.

Late to-night it was reported that everything was running smoothly at the Western Union.

Reports from different points at 10 p.m. show every office manned. The only criminal act thus far reported is that line men cut the wire at Asbury Park.

A general order has been issued from the Western Union office, stating that all business will be accepted, subject to delay.

Chicago, 19.—At midnight business in the Western Union office is moving with small delay. The officials express confidence in their ability to beat the strikers. The striking operators held meetings most of the day and evening, the time being chiefly given to short addresses counseling moderation and good behavior. Committees counsel to prevent any over-indulgence in liquor, and the patrol committees to keep the strikers from assembling in bodies around the Western Union building, were appointed. Whenever one of the "loyal" operators appeared, he was surrounded by strikers, who tried to persuade him to quit work. All was conducted quietly, however. No cases of violence are reported.

CHICAGO, 19.—The fifth day of the Chicago Driving Park summer trotting meeting furnished rare sport. All conditions were favorable. Weather very warm, little wind blowing, track unusually fast. Contests close and exciting, and the average time made was never before equalled for any one day at any place exclusive of one jog around the track alone. [Eight heats were trotted and paced at an average of 2:10. The average of four trotting heats was better than 2:13. The average of four pacing heats was better than 2:13.]

The sensational event of the day was the meeting between the famous New York gelding Majolica and the great Wisconsin stallion Pollux, in which the latter was victorious, reversing the verdict at the Gentleman's Driving Park, New York, a few weeks ago. The following is a brief outline of the racing:

Purse of \$2,500 for three minute class; \$500 extra to beat 2:27; Majolica a strong favorite against the field, on the strength of having trotted in 2:17 in his first race. Majolica won the first heat without urging at any point. In scoring for the second heat at starting the judge gave the word "go," and by mistake sounded the recall bell at the same time. All came back except Majolica, who was jogged round and given the heat under the rules, the others being allowed to start. The third heat was trotted at once. Majolica went away at the post and was seven lengths in front of Pollux at the half-mile post. Then Pollux began trotting very fast, overhauled the leader at the three-quarter post, trotted him to break, and won the heat in 2:16, making a record unsurpassed except by Smuggler and equaled only by Jerome Eddy. The next two heats were a repetition of the third, except that Majolica did not secure such a commanding lead in the first half mile.

Johnston's phenomenal pacer came out between heats of the trotting race, and went a mile for a purse of \$2,000 to beat the best pacing time, 2:11, made by Little Brown Jug at Hartford in 1881. He went to the quarter in 32.3 seconds, to the half in 1:05; the three-quarters in 1:38, and the full mile in 2:11; just equal to the best time, but not winning. The mile was done without a skip.

St. Julien also appeared between heats, and was jogged slowly around the track in a walk-over for the stakes in his match of \$1,000 a side against Clingstone. Nafime.

Rightly winner of to-day's pacing race, was bought before this race by Frank Spearwood, secretary of the Gainsville, Texas, Driving Association and one or two others for \$10,000.

CHICAGO, 20.—A secret meeting of telegraphers was held at Upch's Hall last night. There was a large attendance, and enthusiastic was the mood. A committee was ap-

pointed to supply a report of the brotherhood's proceedings to the newspapers. It was stated that the strike was ordered by the New York committee on Wednesday, and was directed to take place at 12, Washington time. They pronounced the allegation that the report of General Grant's death was started by the Brotherhood, false. They said they were receiving innumerable assurances of sympathy and, if necessary, financial aid from various quarters. The men felt more determined in their course since they were supported by the Knights of Labor. They said that the Western Union was sending business away by train instead of by wire; that few operators except chiefs who were in the office now, were able to touch the keys; that boys and young ladies employed in the check department were offered positions as operators which they declined. That many of the chairs were occupied by wooden men and that when the men left the office in the morning, only six operators remained, and encouraging reports for the brotherhood were stated to have been received from offices that had not entirely suspended business. The committee complained that the company contented itself by saying that the demands of the men were preposterous, failing to show that they were so. The announcement that the board of trade and others had given assurance of support was loudly cheered. In conclusion the committee said that the brotherhood only asked that their case be fairly presented and that the public should not accept implicitly reports adverse to them circulated by the other side.

The officers of the Western Union Company were of course very busy all day. After the strike they pitched into work as if they meant business, and their energy lent renewed vigor to the operators who remained, and gave the new recruits to understand what was expected of them. In fact it is safe to say that of 150 men, women and boys employed in the Western Union building yesterday, there was not one who failed to appreciate the situation, and consequently made every effort to perform the vast amount of work that had accumulated. One of the head officers said that the strike was already whipped. It was apparent from the start to those who had seen the strike before. No officers or chief operators or sub-officers were in the strike, and it was apparent from the start that we would win, because we knew that a large proportion of operators would not leave their instruments, and we were about right in our calculations. These people are enthusiastic too, and will stay with us, no matter what influence is brought to bear upon them. In all the leading cities there is at least one-half the usual force at work, and new recruits are coming in all the time. In the small cities and towns there is practically no difficulty. In many of the smaller cities no one left the office at all. In this last affair, in Denver, Pueblo, Lafayette and Columbus only one man in each city left his key. With the smaller cities and towns sold, we fear no difficulty because there is an unlimited number of operators in the country whose services we are already securing and negotiating for. The striking element in the larger cities is composed principally of single men who have little to lose. To-morrow we expect Chicago to be flooded with operators, but we propose to employ only good men. Thus we are all right and the press will be supplied with the usual matter. Everything considered we regard the present strike as very weak compared with that of 1870.

Clowry reports that the business of the Chicago office of the Western Union Company is moving along without any perceptible friction, and that, while there is not the usual rapid service, nevertheless all the vital commercial and personal messages and press dispatches are being sent over the wires without marked delay. On 'change this morning, there was a disinclination to engage in trading and but little business was transacted during the early hours, owing to the meagre nature of advices. The Western Union put on a trained force early in the day and there was a perceptible improvement immediately thereafter. The strikers here, thus far, display firmness in their determination to stand out for a considerable period and express the belief that the company will have to accede to their terms.

CHICAGO, 20.—The striking operators held a meeting this evening, which was largely attended. There was considerable enthusiasm manifested, including a number of new members who had joined the office. Members of the Brotherhood pressed bitterness at the situation given by a portion of the press. The situation in other cities claimed they were colored for benefit of the company. They then contend that their advantage every large city showed the companies were in hard straits while in reality they were crippled. None of the Chicago strikers thus far made application to the companies there. At five o'clock this evening Chicago officials of the Western Union Company claimed to be up on all business on hand by to-morrow they expect to accept messages without delay "subject to delay." New York, 20.—Jay Ogden they did not propose to form any committee from the Brotherhood, and that if the company persisted in its action they would secede. They had already seceded of themselves, and they will leave it before long. At the office of the Rapid Telegraph Company said 40 operators were working or about one-third of the force. The superintendent who was being gradually replaced with the automatic instrument work no delay is experienced. Memphis, 20.—Manager and one operator constituted the force here. The strikers are hopeful of winning their point. Louisville, 20.—Telegraph business is virtually suspended. Western Union has only in class operators at work, while beginners constitute the force. The Baltimore & Ohio run by the officials alone. The strikers added seven men to their list up to now. Strikers are very hopeful. Complaint is made in business circles about the interruption, but it must be confessed that merchants generally side with strikers. New York, 20.—The offices at the stock exchange operation this morning say no inconvenience will result from the strike. On account of the strike, Western Union way sent operators to Boston, and one to Hartford and Newark, where forces are badly crippled. Operators of the Gold & Telegraph Company at a to-day determined to stand upon to serve the Wall Street.

At the Produce Exchange effect of the strike is more felt, in consequence of the loss of the force. Quotations from Chicago and the West are meagre. The Postal Telegraph has put in some of its rendered considerable aid. Business at the Cotton Exchange has also fallen off on account of the strike. There is great difficulty in getting quotations. At a meeting of strikers to-morrow over 1,500 were present, including 400 linemen. were received from different cities warning the men to faith in newspaper reports. Bonds of the Brotherhood are unbroken. A delegation of the Knights of Labor issued a resolution expressing sympathy and promising aid to carrying out the strike. It is generally believed that the telegraphers of the West will join the strike to-morrow.

Philadelphia, 20.—At the office of the Western Union, everything is working smoothly. The Baltimore & Ohio small force working. One operator is remaining at the Rapid office. The strikers there have been no secret evidence of weakness either part of the strikers or of the company.

Chicago, 20.—At the shift from the day to the night this evening, the Western Union check boys, under the influence of the striking telegraphers, a boyish notion of helping the strikers, quit work to the number of 100, and marched in a body to the