

to some extent on the maintenance of the integrity of the entire system. Auxiliary companies are a severe drain upon the Atchison system under the present system of fixed charges. The loss for the year of the Atlantic and Pacific was \$1,360,034, half chargeable to the Atchison; the loss on the Colorado Midland was \$647,754, on the St. Louis and San Francisco \$599,662, all chargeable to the Atchison. On the results of the adjustment that may be reached with these companies, if retained in this system, depends the real surplus available for payment of interest on the Atchison general four, taking the earnings for the year ending June 30, 1894 as a basis. The net floating debt of the entire system, exclusive of the indebtedness of one company to another now overdue, and the accrued interest on the funded debt is \$9,149,588. On the Atlantic and Pacific it is \$589,509; on the Colorado Midland, \$183,753; on the St. Louis and San Francisco, \$457,752. The gross unfunded debt is \$15,103,391; gross assets, \$4,696,179, making the total of net unfunded debt, \$10,410,202. The indebtedness on April 30, 1894, of the Atlantic and Pacific was \$5,888,535 to the Atchison company, and \$6,849,200 to the St. Louis and San Francisco. The indebtedness to the St. Louis and San Francisco to the Atchison was \$1,661,269, and of the Colorado Midland to Atchison, \$1,595,916, which claims, aggregating \$16,040,920, are apparently worthless and should be written to the debit profit and loss. The interest on the funded and unfunded debt and the deficiency in each year from 1891 to '94, is as follows: 1891, interest, \$7,169,164; deficiency, \$1,964,285. 1892, interest, \$7,914,111; deficiency, \$60,938. 1893, interest, \$8,220,433; deficiency, \$134,825. 1894, interest, \$8,964,857; deficiency, \$3,003,242, making a total deficiency for the four years of \$5,168,292.

CHICAGO, Nov. 12.—The steamer Wetmore is reported ashore off Cleveland, Wisconsin, and in danger of breaking up. The life saving crews, Two rivers and Manitowoc, have come to rescue.

SHARON, Pa., Nov. 12.—Several days ago the members of Maunier Choir club gave a 'possum bake to a number of friends. They all pronounced the dish superior to any they had tasted before. They might have remained in ignorance of the facts of the case had George Jones, a Brookfield, Ohio, citizen, of whom they had purchased the 'possum, remained quiet. A neighbor asked Jones what had become of his big house-cat. Jones laughingly remarked that a Sharon delegate had requested him to hunt them a 'possum. He was unsuccessful in his hunt and butchered his old tom cat, dressed it and sent it to Sharon.

The club members have investigated the case and found Jones's statement to be true, and have begun legal proceedings against the Malt-see vendor.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 12.—George W. Scroggin, the turf man, is dead.

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Nov. 12.—Henry C. Mayne, who is well known in scientific circles through his writings upon sun spots, made an interesting observation of the transit of Mercury. Mr. Mayne says:

"Soon after the second contact what appeared to be a brownish, transparent,

oval shadow, just in advance of the planet and in contact with the black dot, was seen by two persons independently. The observer first saw this shadow and tried without success to eliminate it by readjustment of the eye. Without stating what had been seen another person was asked to observe the planet on the sun's disc. The second observer spoke of the brown shadow and inquired if the first observer had seen it.

"When an affirmative answer was given the subject was discussed and further experiments were tried to ascertain if the shadow was an optical illusion. This transparent shadow through which the surface of the sun could be faintly seen, continued to advance just ahead of the planet as it moved towards the sun's meridian. The shadow was visible with a higher power.

"The first and most obvious explanation is that this effect was produced by unequal reflection caused by swifter currents of unequal density in the upper atmosphere; the same cause has operated to make the sun's limb appear to be too thin. This explanation is not quite adequate, because the planet itself seemed perfectly round and sharp at the time the shadow was most clearly visible. Spots on the sun were also well defined.

"Another possible explanation is that the lenses were not in optical alignment, causing a halo on one side of the object when the object was out of focus. An attempt was made to focus on the planet, but it was found that the edges of the planet's disk were sharpest when the sun spots were in good focus. This explanation seems also to be inadequate.

"What could produce the appearance of a transparent brown spot just ahead of the planet and touching its disc as projected upon the bright surface of the sun? One other explanation presents itself. A large gaseous satellite of Mercury, invisible in Mercury's blazing light during elongations, but of sufficient density to cut off part of the sun's light from the observer during transit and give that light a reddish brown color. It is quite probable that Mercury may have picked up such a satellite, as many gaseous visitors pass around the sun each year and go off into space. Mercury's mean distance from the sun is about 40,000 miles, and he makes a complete revolution around the sun in about eighty days. In this rapid motion many opportunities for picking up stray matter may occur. So a gaseous satellite of considerable dimensions could be easily accounted for."

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Nov. 12.—"Is Josie Regan dead?" is a question that is agitating a considerable portion of this community.

Miss Regan was employed in the public schools of this city for many years, and finally became a principal. She was a member of the county board of education and recognized as one of the most efficient teachers of the department. She was in poor health, however, and so obtained a long leave of absence, and on the evening of August 20, 1893, departed for Paris, France, ostensibly to have a surgical operation performed. A few weeks later a cablegram was received from Paris, stating that Miss Regan had expired from the

effects of a hemorrhage in a Paris hotel. It is now stated that Miss Regan is not dead, but living in Colorado City, where she is married to John Clara, an engineer for whom she jilted a fiancé of ten years' standing.

PUEBLA, Mex., Nov. 12.—Senor Pallo Martinez Del Rio, who has returned from New York, announces that arrangements have been perfected for the consolidation of the Mexican Southern and Intercolonial railroads, and the former line will be immediately extended to Salina Cruz, where it will connect with the Tehuantepec road, thus forming a direct route from the United States to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—A dispatch from Shanghai says the Japanese captured Port Arthur yesterday morning after feeble resistance by the Chinese. Port Arthur was bombarded previous to the surrender. The Chinese laid down their arms and yielded themselves prisoners of war. The Chinese commanding officers abandoned Port Arthur on the night of November 6.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—Heavy rains have prevailed in various parts of Great Britain, causing floods, which in many cases have brought business to a standstill. At St. Ives, Cornwall, schools have been closed on account of the floods, and boats are used to transport people through the streets. Considerable damage has been done on the Isle of Wight by the floods.

HUNTER FOUND DEAD.

Two months ago an old man named Hunter, an inmate of the county infirmary, wandered away and was lost. Dr. Allen, who has charge of the poor house, had the following advertisement inserted in all of the daily papers of this city and kept up a diligent inquiry for information concerning the whereabouts of his aged ward:

Wandered from Salt Lake County Infirmary, Sunday, September 16th, J. D. Hunter (Scotch), aged 75 years, white hair and beard, wears glasses and carries cane, and fine looking; wore two coats, black and brown; left with intention of attending Tabernacle. Notify J. F. Allen, County Infirmary.

Dr. Allen's theory is that the old man came up town eight weeks ago Sunday, as was his custom, and that he got off the State street and Murray car at the corner of East and North Temple streets, with the intention of going to his son's house on Plum street, to take dinner and later to attend services at the Tabernacle. But as he was enfeebled by fits of which he had several the night before and his mind was not very strong the doctor is of the opinion that he continued over the hill past his son's home and that he only halted in the foothills above White & Sons' slaughtering yards in Davis county about five miles north of this city, when he was compelled to give up from sheer exhaustion.

It was there that his dead body was found by a shepherd yesterday. It was emaciated, pinched, decomposed and partly eaten by wild animals. There is no doubt that the remains are those of the old man. In his clothes was a Mormon hymn book bearing his name. The Davis county officials were notified and took charge of the body.