

GENERAL NEWS OF INDUSTRIES

The fight that is now on for the possession of the franchises and right of way of the old abandoned South Mountain Midland, between the Pennsylvania Midland and the Blue Mountain railroad, of which Clinton Rover is the president, promises to be an interesting one, and already, says the Philadelphia Record, estimations and re-creations are flying thick and fast between the rival corporations. The Blue Mountain railroad is the outgrowth of an organization effected by James Marsh, a Lebanon contractor, who had a lien against the old South Mountain for construction work done and who purchased the rights and franchises of that road at sheriff's sale some months ago. To comply with the laws of the commonwealth and maintain the validity of his purchase, it was necessary to effect an organization within thirty days, and the Blue Mountain company was the outgrowth. It was not very long before the organizers of the Blue Mountain railroad awoke to the fact that though they had purchased the rights and franchises of the South Mountain road they possessed nothing but the bare franchise, the rights of way having reverted to the original owners of the land. Upon discovering this fact they at once set about to secure the necessary rights of way, and W. C. Mayne, the principal financial company, and one of the prime movers in the project is authority for the statement that fully two-thirds of these have been secured. Mr. Mayne further states that the Pennsylvania Midland, which is capitalized at \$2,500,000, and claims to have secured by deed the entire right of way of the old South Mountain road, possesses nothing but a franchise, which represents a cash outlay so far of about \$4,000, made up mainly of counsel fees, and the purchase at sheriff's sale of Mr. Marsh's interest as an incorporator in the Blue Mountain railroad. The Blue Mountain company has for some weeks been engaged in a careful survey of the old South Mountain route, and the action of the Pennsylvania Midland directors in approving the hasty survey and ordering it to be filed at Harrisburg is taken as an intention on their part to forestall their rivals in the matter of location.

A belief once prevailed, says the Stockholder, that the Pennsylvania, through its refusal to co-operate with other companies, would eventually be the means of disrupting the combination. This belief was intensified when the returns of 1893 were in, showing that the company increased its tonnage during that year 276,921 tons or 8 per cent, over 1892, following the increase in 1892 over 1891 of 5 per cent. The decrease to be noted in its output this year, therefore, is surprising, and is construed to indicate that it has almost reached (at any rate, temporarily) the maximum producing capacity.

The anthracite coal regions are also becoming girdled with electric railroads, which connect towns after towns with their neighbors on both sides. In the main the securities of these companies are paying investments, and their patronage increase from week to week. The closeness with which the steam railway companies watch their movements is the strongest evidence that could be found of the probable future of the electric lines. Whatever may once have been thought of them, it is now evident that they have come to stay, and a general willingness to admit the fact has been reached by their competing lines. But while this is true, and while it is also a fact that their completion does not swell the receipts of the steam roads, their extension is to be complacently regarded by the public. It gives the latter the choice of traveling by different lines at lower rates, and does not force the oil companies into receivers' hands. It is the knowledge of these facts which impels the people to urge on the work of electric extension.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

MINOR INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

A semi-official statement places the number of miners at 47,000, according to reason of the Western strike at 7,000.

For twelve months American railroad companies have paid \$29,616,284 as interest on bonds and \$95,337,681 as dividends on stocks.

During the year 1893 the steam surface railroads of this country carried 635,965,973 passengers and moved 737,464,480 tons of freight.

Rumor is still current in traffic circles that Isaac L. Rice is slated for president of the Reading, but rumor on this subject is very unreliable.

General Manager Tucker, of the Maine Central, stated that the company had decided to postpone indefinitely the awarding of the contract for building 1,000 cars, owing to dull times.

General Manager Mann, of the Mobile and Ohio, has answered a communication from the mayor of East St. Louis, declining to re-employ the men who went out during the recent strike.

The state with the greatest railroad mileage is Illinois—10,428 miles. Next comes Pennsylvania, with 9,435; Texas, with 9,412; Kansas, with 8,931; Ohio, with 8,588; Iowa, with 8,518; and New York, with 8,110.

It is believed that the action of the Great Northern in inaugurating a big reduction in elevator rates will extend throughout the country, and this is a line of business in which economists have heretofore been unknown.

W. O. Beckley, of the Wabash, has been elected president; W. B. L. Chisholm, of the Pennsylvania vice-president; and G. P. Felow, of the Memphis, St. Charles, Elkhorn, secretary and treasurer of the Railroad Conductors' Life Insurance association of the United States.

The earnings of American railroads last year were \$31,978,342 from passengers, \$80,494,668 from freight, and \$88,108,488 from miscellaneous sources. The receipts of the elevated roads were \$10,976,752, making total revenues \$1,222,618,200. The companies expended \$858,627,181 for operating expenses.

The railroad mileage of the United States at the close of the year 1893 was 177,753 miles, an increase for the year of 2,549. The companies owning 178,441 miles of line have a capital stock of \$5,091,034, funded debt of \$5,570,295,613, and operating debts of \$1,900,000. Total assets were \$11,448,588,902, which is \$12,072,274 less than the assets.

All Free.

Those who have used Dr. King's New Discovery will value, and those who have not, now have the opportunity to try it free. Call on the advertised Drugstore and get a Trial Bottle. Free. Send your name and address to H. E. Bucklin & Co., Chicago, and get a sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. Free, as well as a copy of Guide to Health and Household Instructions. Free. All of which is guaranteed to do good and cost you nothing. —Matthews Bros. Drugstore.

The first trial of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup will satisfy anyone that has had the pleasure of trying it. It has now been refined into an elixir and a convenient cough medicine. Sold by all dealers on a guarantee of satisfaction. *

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Stocks and Bonds.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—Offerings of long stock checked the rising tendency in the railway group this morning. The offerings, however, were well received, and the market is reported to be quiet. Railway earnings were of material assistance to the bulls, the rest to hand for the second week of August having shown an improvement.

The market finally closed direct 1/2 to 1/4 per cent higher for the active railway stocks.

Sugar leading. There was a

better inquiry for the usually inactive issues and rubber common, Pullman, United States leather preferred, Chicago and Eastern, Illinois, Colorado Fuel, Consolidated, and New England, moved up anywhere from 1 to 1 1/2 per cent. The transactions were heavy and aggregated 248,560 shares.

The following composite table showing the day's fluctuations in active stocks is supplied and revised daily by La Rue & Fuller, stock brokers, 131 Wyoming avenue:

Open High Low Close
Am. Coal Co. 100 101 100 101
Am. Gas. & Elec. 113 114 113 114
A. T. & S. F. 7 7 6 6
Can. So. 6134 6134 6134 6134
Nat. R. J. 107 107 107 107
Cle. & N. W. 107 107 107 107
B. & Q. 77 78 77 78
Chi. & Ga. 7634 7634 7634 7634
Chi. & St. L. 108 108 108 108
Col. Rock & V. T. 108 108 108 108
D. & H. 105 105 105 105
D. & W. 165 165 165 165
E. & P. 158 158 158 158
Erie 158 158 158 158
G. E. Co. 40 40 40 40
Lake Shore 132 132 132 132
Nat. Lead Co. 118 118 118 118
Miss. Pac. 31 30 30 30
Nat. Lead Co. 44 44 44 44
N. Y. & N. W. 17 17 17 17
N. Y. & S. W. 16 16 16 16
N. Y. & W. 212 212 212 212
North Pac. 116 116 116 116
Omaha 38 38 38 38
Reading 20 20 20 20
Rock Island 68 68 68 68
R. T. 176 176 176 176
S. & S. 645 645 645 645
T. C. & I. 194 194 194 194
Texas & Pac. 103 103 103 103
Union Pacific 108 108 108 108
Western Union 90 90 90 90
W. & L. E. 126 126 126 126
W. & L. E. 424 424 424 424

Chicago Grain and Provisions.

SCRANTON, Aug. 20.—The following quotations are supplied and corrected daily by La Rue & Fuller, stock brokers, 131 Wyoming avenue:

WHEAT
Opening 6324 6324 6324 6324
Highest 541 541 541 541
Lowest 539 539 539 539
Closing 538 538 538 538

CORN
Opening 4924 4924 4924 4924
Highest 541 541 541 541
Lowest 4924 4924 4924 4924
Closing 4924 4924 4924 4924

OATS
Opening 2024 2024 2024 2024
Highest 305 305 305 305
Lowest 2024 2024 2024 2024
Closing 203 203 203 203

PORK
Opening 180 180 180 180
Highest 180 180 180 180
Lowest 180 180 180 180
Closing 180 180 180 180

LARD
Opening 745 745 745 745
Highest 757 757 757 757
Lowest 745 745 745 745
Closing 747 747 747 747

SHORT BEEF
Opening 720 720 720 720
Highest 762 762 762 762
Lowest 720 720 720 720
Closing 720 720 720 720

MUSLIN GOWNS.

HATS AND VEILS.

Piquant Accessories Which Conceal Deco- racts and Magnify Beauty.

A certain marquise who is not above turning an honest penny, or perhaps securing good counsel, to her country-women on various subjects connected with the toilet, has decided opinions as to the veil, which may interest American as well as Parisian women. After descending on its rise, development and uses in the past she goes on to speak of it in its

observed by him, while Nordenskjold placed the mean height of all aurora at 120 miles.

Lemström claims to have observed the aurora when it was not above 1,000 feet high, and Hildebrandson has seen them below the clouds. From the great variety of facts and figures produced by different observers, and the wide difference of opinion which exists among scientific men as to their exact height, Mr. Parker advises that the aurora only appears at a considerable height in the temperate zone, while in the auroral zone proper the phenomenon is generally produced in the lower atmosphere.—St. Louis Republic.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

Paper Screens, Dressing For Beds and Laundry Bags.

Written letters, red on white, for marking clothing and household linens are now shown set two abreast on double width ribbon in all combinations of initials.

Japanese paper screens are to be bought for a song now, but they are scarcely worth even that price, not that they are not frequently pretty and decorative, but they are very fragile. An unusually careful woman, living all alone and never receiving a guest, might possibly keep a paper screen intact for a month, but under ordinary circumstances the paper is punched through in a dozen places before that length of time elapses. If the man who delivers it at the house has not already burst it with his fingers, it is sure to be set within reach of the heels of a rocking chair, so that the first person who sits down severs the rockers through it. If there is a projecting corner of a furniture knob anywhere about the screen falls over it and spikes itself at the first

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