

### THE RAILROAD.

Mr. M. H. CLAPP, superintendent of telegraph, Northern Pacific Railroad, St. Paul, Minn., read a paper before the New York Telephone Society, April 27, on "A Comparison of the Application of the Telephone in Commercial Companies with its Application to Steam Railway Operation."

Mr. B. J. SCHWENDT, signal engineer of the Toledo and Ohio Central, and Zanesville and Western Railroads, has been appointed superintendent of telegraph and signals of the same roads, with headquarters at Columbus, Ohio.

CONTINENTAL ALPHABET ON RAILROAD WIRES.—An operator on a Western railroad has asked the *Railway Age Gazette* to advocate the use on railroad wires of the Continental code in place of Morse, in the interest of "safety first." The editor of the paper does not favor the idea altogether; he admits, however, that it is a debatable proposition.

#### Death of W. C. Walstrum.

W. C. Walstrum, aged sixty years, superintendent of telegraph, Norfolk and Western Railroad, Roanoke, Va., and president of the Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents, died at his home, May 8, his remains being buried at Fredericksburg, Va., May 10. Mr. Walstrum was born at Charlottesville, Va., in 1855, and entered the telegraph service as messenger in 1869, becoming an operator a year later. His activities were wholly in the South. He was faithful to the interests he represented during his career and highly esteemed by his many friends. He became superintendent of telegraph of the Norfolk and Western Railroad sixteen years ago and was a very capable and just official.

Mr. Walstrum was elected president of the Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents at the New Orleans Convention last May, and had given much thought and time toward making a great success of the Rochester convention next month. The funeral services were attended by many of his old associates.

#### The Rochester Convention of Railway Telegraph Superintendents.

The programme of the thirty-fourth annual convention of the Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents at the Powers Hotel, Rochester, N. Y., June 22, 23, 24 and 25, both as regards work and entertainment will be satisfactory in all particulars. On June 23 there will be an automobile ride in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening, and on June 25 there will be a boat ride on Lake Ontario. The ladies of the party will receive special attention in the way of entertainment and every effort is being made to make the meeting profitable and enjoyable in every way. As already announced, several papers of particular and general interest will be presented at the meetings, and several prominent telegraph and telephone engineers will be present. Mr. John J. Carty, chief engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, will be present in person and read a paper of special value to the superintendents.

Owing to the death of W. C. Walstrum, president of the association, the duties of that office will devolve upon Mr. E. C. Keenan, first vice-president. Arrangements for the Rochester convention are being completed by Mr. Keenan and secretary P. W. Drew, and there will be no change whatever in the plans.

### OBITUARY.

EDWARD D. EASTON, aged fifty-nine years, president of the Columbia Graphophone Company, Bridgeport, Conn., died at Central Valley, N. Y., April 30. Mr. Easton was formerly a well-known Associated Press reporter in Washington.

H. S. STONE, eldest son of Mr. Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, New York, was drowned in the sinking of the steamer *Lusitania* by German submarines off the Irish coast on May 7. Deceased was formerly in the publishing business and was the founder and editor of two magazines. He was a graduate of Harvard University and a member of various New York clubs.

#### The Late D. B. Mitchell.

A special meeting of the directors of the Serial Building Loan and Saving Institution was held on Friday evening, April 30, to take suitable action on the death of David B. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell had been connected officially with the Serial since its organization, and for thirteen years acted as president of the institution. During his long term of office the institution, under his able presidency, was very successful and increased in resources and reputation, notwithstanding the two financial panics which caused much distress to other banking interests. Suitable resolutions of condolence were passed and a committee consisting of Thos. E. Fleming, T. M. Brennan and E. F. Howell was appointed to have them engrossed and presented to the family, as a testimonial of the appreciation in which Mr. Mitchell was held by the hundreds of members of the Serial Institution.

The funeral services at his late home at New Rochelle, N. Y., Friday evening, April 30, were attended by a large number of his former office associates and business acquaintances.

In business Mr. Mitchell was a man of the highest credit, whose word was as good as his bond. In his home, considerate and tender, and with his friends, a genial and faithful companion. He was a brilliant telegrapher of the old school.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held at 39 West Thirty-ninth street, New York, at 8:15 p. m., May 18. The result of the election of officers will be announced. Following the meeting, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell will be presented with the Edison medal. An address will be made by Mr. John J. Carty, chief engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Mr. Thomas A. Watson will follow with an address, entitled "How Bell Invented the Telephone."