## Milwaukee and St. Paul Combine with St. Paul and Duluth Line.

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, July 27.—One of the most important railroad deals that has been engineered in a long time has just been consummated between the Northern Pacific and Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Roads.

By an agreement entered into by officers of the two roads to-day, a traffic arrangement is made that will allow the Milwaukee and St. Paul Road to use the tracks of the St. Paul and Duluth line between St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth, giving the former a direct through line between Chicago and the metropolis of Lake Superior. Arrangements are being made for a large freight house in the twin cities for use of the three roads.

## Brief Railroad Items.

James McCrea. First Vice President of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburg, will sail for Europe on his steam yacht within a few days.

After July the monthly statements of the Santa Fé's earnings will include those of the San Joaquin Valley Branch to San Francisco, which was opened a short time ago.

The report of the Central Passenger Association shows that since its organization in September, 1897, it has sold 432,936 mileage books, on which \$3,947,321 was paid out in rebates.

The Lehigh Valley will run an excursion to Mauch Chunk and the Switchback Railroad at a reduced rate to-morrow. A special train will leave Cortlandt and Desbrosses Streets at 8:15 A. M.

The stockholders of the Peoria. Decatur and Evansville Railway who desire to have the recent sale of that road set aside have taken the case to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago.

The main line of the Western New York and Pennsylvania from Newcastle to Oil City, Penn., a distance of sixty-eight miles, will be known as the Newcastle Branch of the Erie and Ashtabula Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The Baltimore and Ohio awards medals to its engineers for each five years of services. Engineers who have served fifty years receive gold medals, which are good as passes for life. Engineers who have been in the service forty-five years receive as a medal a string of thirteen silver medallions. The other medals differ only in the inscriptions.

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