

## THE FIRST GUN FIRED.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 7.—The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Burlington and Northern, and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroads this afternoon reduced their second-class passenger rates, St. Paul to Chicago, to \$7. The cause of the cut was the discovery that the other lines were selling tickets at that rate through the scalpers' offices. Mr. Kenyon of the Burlington Road bought at scalpers' offices this morning a special limited ticket to Chicago over the Wisconsin Central Road for \$7 and a ticket at the same rate issued by the Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City Road. Armed with these tickets Mr. Kenyon interviewed Mr. Dixon of the Milwaukee and Mr. Teasdale of the Omaha Road, and as a result of this conference it was decided to cut the Chicago second-class rate to \$7 and sell tickets at their regular ticket offices at that rate.

This is the first step of a rate war which has been pending for the past two weeks and which may be extended to first-class rates in a day or two. The other lines have not yet taken any other action than to meet the rates quoted by the three roads running vestibuled trains. But it will be impossible to keep the first-class rate out of the fight, and there is already a rumor that the second-class rate will be reduced to \$5.

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