

## File Unit - 002/002.01-17092.00.01



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**Title:** DL&W RR--Correspondence--General Superintendent--17092: Association Formed to Compile Statistics on Wages, Condition of Employment, etc

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17092

*Handwritten initials and a diagonal line.*

February 25th, 1905.

Mr. W. G. Besler,

Vice-President & General Mgr., C.R.R. of N.J.,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your several communications concerning the new Association recently organized in New York City.

I have carefully noted the contents of your letter of 24th instant and the enclosure. This is to advise that our Company desires membership in the Association, and you may enter its name upon the list. Voucher will be passed at once for the amount of \$100.00, as per bill received.

Yours truly,

General Superintendent.

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# Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey

CENTRAL BUILDING 143 LIBERTY STREET.

W. G. Kesler.

Vice President & General Manager.

NEW YORK,

February 24th, 1905.

Mr. T. E. Clarke,

Gen'l Supt, D., L. & W. R. R.,

Scranton, Pa.

Dear Mr. Clarke:-

Your further letter of the 22nd instant, in regard to the new Association, has been received, and I presume crossed with mine of the 23rd in the mail.

I enclose herewith a copy of letter which was written to Mr. Ramsey, February 3rd, asking him, in accordance with understanding had at the meeting, to take up with the C., H. & D.-Pere Marquette and secure the co-operation of that line. (Since that time, Pres. Harding, of the latter line, has written me advising that he is heartily in accord with the movement, and desires, by all means, to become a party to the organization.) I quote below paragraph from letter to Mr. Ramsey, covering the matter of the \$100 assessment:

"The Executive Committee arranged to secure a statistician, with necessary clerical force, to push the compilation of statistics covering engine service and wage conditions, etc., etc., and an assessment of \$100 per company, to take care of probable expenses for the coming year, was authorized."

From this you will note that the assessment was necessary in order to provide funds to take care of preparation of statistics,

Mr. T. E. Clarke,

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2/24/1905.

which, as advised in my letter of the 23rd instant, above referred to, we are now compiling, and are making rapid progress.

Trusting that, with this explanation, you will see your way clear to come into the Association, I am,

Yours truly,



Vice Pres. & Gen'l Mg'r.

Enc.

February 3rd, 1905.

Confidential

Mr. Joseph Ramsey, Jr.,  
President, Wabash R. R.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Ramsey:-

Referring to meeting at #24 Park Place, New York,  
which you attended yesterday: There were sixteen railroads represented as follows:

B. & O. R. R.,	Michigan Central Ry.
C. C. C. & St. L. Ry.,	New York Central.
C. & O. Ry.,	Norfolk & Western R. R.,
C. R. R. of N. J.	Penna. R. R.
D., L. & W. R. R.,	Penna. Lines W. of P'burg,
Erie Railroad,	Philada. & Reading Ry.
L. S. & M. S. Ry.	Vandalia Lines,
Lehigh Valley R. R.,	Wabash Railroad.

The call for the meeting was made in the following form:

"General Manager Peck, of the penna. Lines West of Pittsburg writes to me under date of January 23rd as follows:

"Sometime ago I started to compile some information with regard to rates of pay and working conditions of train and yardmen between Chicago and seaboard, and not finding any organization of operating officers covering this territory, I arranged with Mr. Atterbury and the Vanderbilt people to appoint a Committee of four to call on the various General Managers and get the necessary information to enable us to make the tabulation. These young men have been on the road for a week or more, and the fact has developed that several questions of importance are coming up on various lines in the territory referred to, and as it will require a month or more to complete the canvas, it has been suggested that it would be a good idea to call a meeting of the general Managers of the principal lines, to compare notes on the general situation and perhaps avoid having some bad precedents established in connection with the handling of the matters referred to.

2/3/1905.

"I find that the trainmen on the B. & O., Lake Shore and one or two other roads, have asked for additional assistance, in some cases demanding two men on an engine, and this question is being considered and will probably be acted upon very shortly by the officers of a number of the lines east of Chicago. The question of proper basis for yard men's rates is also under consideration, and it has been suggested that we might agree on a few broad principles if we could arrange for a meeting of this kind.

"I have talked with Mr. Atterbury about the matter, and he will be very glad to attend such a meeting if you will arrange to call it. You are located in New York and we had better probably hold the meeting at that point, as it would cause less comment."

"I have spoken to several of the gentlemen above addressed and find that they are thoroughly in accord with what is here proposed.

"I have, therefore, addressed this letter to those whose names you find here, and will suggest that, if anything is to be done in this matter, it should be done very promptly, and that we get together in New York City, at #24 Park Place, on Thursday Feb'y. 2nd."

Reviewing briefly what I explained to you when you came into the meeting: Each of the various General Managers present had expressed himself, covering the situation from his point of view, and the concensus of opinion was that an organization of General Managers for the territory east of St. Louis and Chicago was not only desirable, but in view of what is taking place, an absolute necessity. With what happed after you came in, you are, of course, familiar.

An Executive Committee was appointed as follows:

W.G. Besler, Chairman,	
G. L. Peck,	Gen'l Mg'r, Penna. Lines W. of Pittsburg
A. H. Smith,	gen'l Mg'r N.Y.C. & H.R.R.R.
N. D. Maher,	Gen'l Mg'r, Norfolk & Western R. R.

After the meeting adjourned, this Executive Committee got to work, and we have added to the list of roads represented the following:

B. & O. S. W. R. R.	Hocking Valley R. R.
C. H. & H. - Pere Marquette	Monon Route,
Clover Leaf,	Nickle Plate,
Delaware & Hudson Co.	P. & L. E. R. R.

Mr. Jos. Ramsey, Jr.,

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2/3/1905

I was delegated to get in touch with you, and ask you to see Mr. Harding, of the C. H. & D. - Pere Marquette, so as to secure the active co-operation of that line.

The Executive Committee arranged to secure a statistician, with necessary clerical force, to push the compilation of statistics covering engine service and wage conditions, etc., etc. and an assessment of \$100 per company, to take care of probable expenses for the coming year, was authorized.

Will you kindly take the matter up with Mr. Harding, and at your convenience, advise whether they will come into the Association?

Yours truly,

Vice Pres. & Gen'l Mgr.

17092

# Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey

W. G. Besler,  
Vice President & General Manager.

CENTRAL BUILDING 143 LIBERTY STREET.

NEW YORK,

February 23rd, 1905.

Mr. T. E. Clarke,  
Gen'l Sup't, D., L. & W.R. R.,  
Scranton, Pa.

Dear Mr. Clarke:-

Referring to your recent communication, wherein you requested that I take up and give Mr. Truesdale some further information in regard to the new Association formed to compile statistics on wages, conditions of employment, etc., etc., on lines between Chicago and seaboard. I took this matter up with Mr. Truesdale, and he now advises that he has left the question entirely in your hands. In view of explanation I gave you as to the good this organization will accomplish, I trust you will see your way clear to join with us in this matter. We have already gotten down to work on securing data, etc., and have, thus far, made a very good start. Will you kindly advise?

Yours truly,



Vice Pres. & Gen'l Mg'r.

February 22nd, 1905.

Mr. W. G. Besler,

Vice-President & General Mgr., C.R.R. of N.J.,  
New York City.

My Dear Mr. Besler,-

Referring to correspondence relating to  
the new Association.

Mr. Truesdale has sent me copy of his letter of 21st  
instant to you, with instructions accordingly. Upon my  
return from New York after our brief interview on this  
subject and thinking it over seriously, it occurred to my  
mind that I was over-reaching in going into the plan without  
Mr. Truesdale's full knowledge and approval. Having failed  
to attend the meeting, I was unable to make the matter clear  
to his mind, and I therefore requested you to call upon  
him and explain personally, rather than by letter, you  
being so well informed, and for the same reason, I am  
still somewhat in the dark as to the real scope and purpose  
of the Organization, except, as I may infer from inquiries  
received for statistical information and other matter, but  
I think that when the object of the jack-pot is explained,  
I may clearly see my way to enter into the game. Will you

WGB #2

please enlighten me as to the object of accumulating the sum of \$100.00 from each Company. If you mentioned this at our last interview, I do not remember it.

You know how my sympathies run along such lines, and feel sure you will not question my motive in being so particular.

Yours truly,

General Superintendent.

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17092  
DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,

Office of President,

W. H. TRUESDALE,  
President,  
NEW YORK.

February 21st, 1905.

Mr. T. E. Clarke,  
General Superintendent,  
Scranton, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I return herewith all papers sent me with yours of the 20th as to our joining with other lines between St. Louis, Chicago and the seaboard in the organization referred to and for the purposes indicated in the correspondence which Mr. Besler sent me. Please note copy of my letter to Mr. Besler, in which I have stated to him that the matter is in your hands to do as you deem best so far as this Company is concerned. If you think our interests are such as would justify our paying the assessment charge against us and going ahead with the other lines in the work they have undertaken I will be entirely satisfied.

Yours truly,

  
President.

Enc.

DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,

Office of President,

W. H. TRUESDALE,  
President,  
NEW YORK.

February 21st, 1905.

Mr. W. G. Besler,  
Vice President and Gen'l Manager,  
Central R.R. of New Jersey,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Besler:

I duly received yours of the 17th inst.,  
with enclosures, all of which I have noted. I return the  
enclosures as you request.

I have said to our Mr. Clarke that he may do as  
he deems best in the matter of our joining with the other  
lines in the organization referred to and for the purposes  
indicated in your letter to me and the enclosures  
referred to.

Yours truly,

President.

Enc.

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February 20th. 1905.

Mr. W. H. Truesdale,

President.

Dear Sir:-

Returning herewith your memorandum and enclosures from Vice-President Bealer, relating to a meeting of managing operating officials recently held in New York, at which Mr. Bealer officiated as chairman.

I certainly had no thought of being unfair to you nor of imposing upon you in the least in sending to Mr. Bealer my letter next attached, and I think you will agree with me, upon reading it, that if he had complied with my request, it would not seem so plain to your mind that I have been unbusiness-like in the whole proposition. The two additional enclosures which I hand you herewith were received from Mr. Bealer separately, and the one received last was sent you first in error, it being my intention to send them to you together.

I feel just as you do, without a more clear understanding of the organization and its purpose, viz., that it is too big and covers too much territory to work out anything

WHT #3

to real advantage; in other words, I have felt some doubt of its being wieldy enough for tangible results. By resolution, as I understand it, the meeting agreed to collect and tabulate information relating to rates of pay in various branches of the operating department, with rules prescribing working conditions as usually made with committees representing employes, and the good, bad or indifferent effect of such rules, etc.; also how agreements with employes are made, whether signed, by whom and what recognition is made of their respective organizations in connection therewith.

I was not aware of all this when I referred the two communications to you. It came to me later in the way of blank forms to be filled out, which I have done in good faith and without any commitment, seeing no harm in it, rather than withhold, pending our decision as to membership.

The object of collecting from each road the amount of \$100.00 is beyond my comprehension. I do not know how they intend to play for this jack-pot. I thought that if you and Mr. Besler should confer personally on the subject, the result would be more to your satisfaction, he being so well informed. I said to Mr. Besler at another meeting a few days later that his speaking for the D., L. & W. as being more than likely to fall into line was all right. After this

WHT #3

we had a brief talk on the subject, in which he gave me the outline. Upon my return home and thinking it over seriously, it struck me that I was liable to over-reach in going into the plan without your full knowledge and approval.

Respectfully yours,

General Superintendent.

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# Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey

CENTRAL BUILDING 143 LIBERTY STREET.

W. G. Wesler,  
Vice President & General Manager.

NEW YORK, February 17th, 1905.

Mr. W. H. Truesdale,  
President, D., L. & W. R. R.,  
#26 Exchange Place, New York.

Dear Mr. Truesdale:-

Mr. Clarke has just written me advising that he has sent you a bill, rendered against your Company for proportion of expense incurred in preparing statistics covering wages, conditions of employment, etc., etc., on lines between Chicago and seaboard.

In order that you may more fully understand the matter, I enclose herewith copy of letter written to Mr. Joseph Ramsey, of the Wabash, also reply received from President Harding, of the C., H. & D. - Pere Marquette System, which after noting, I will be pleased to have you return to me under personal copy, as they are my file copies.

I think this will make the matter clear to you, and that you will be very glad to join in such movement. The expense is practically nominal, and as the information to be compiled will be so valuable, I feel that you will surely desire to come in.

In this connection, I wish to say that matters are progressing very favorably as well as rapidly, and we expect very soon

Mr. W. H. Truesdale,

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2/17/1905.

to take some effective action.

Will be glad to call at your office and give you further information in regard to this matter if you so desire.

Yours truly,



Vice Pres. & Gen'l Mg'r.

Enc.

P. S. =

Mr. Baer understands and heartily approves what is contemplated here! -

B.

17092  
THE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,

OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,

T. E. CLARKE,  
General Superintendent.

SCRANTON, PA.

February 15th, 1905.

Mr. W. C. Besler,  
Vice-President, C.R.R. of N.J.,  
New York City.

My Dear Mr. Besler,-

Referring to your good favor of 3rd instant, and the bill rendered in the amount of \$100.00. for share of assessment, account expense of an organization recently effected in New York City.

Upon referring this question to our President, I am asked for more specific information as to the organization and its object. Mr. Truesdale would like to know a little more definitely just what this organization is and its scope and purpose, in order that he may intelligently decide whether it is likely to be of benefit to our Company or not.

Having failed to attend the meeting, I am unable to make this matter clear to his mind, and I would therefore request that you will kindly call upon Mr. Truesdale and explain personally. He has the impression now that the Association is too big and covers too much territory to work out anything to real advantage.

Yours truly,

11/11

Dear Sir,  
your promise  
letter yesterday

Yours

2/8

Yours I wrote you  
yesterday in regard  
to this matter I  
don't see anything in  
this letter explaining  
the reasons or objects that  
lead to this by organ

my system  
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17092  
DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,

Office of President,

W. H. TRUESDALE,  
President,  
NEW YORK.

February 8th, 1905.

Mr. T. E. Clarke,  
General Superintendent,  
Scranton, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Referring to enclosed as to the General Managers meeting and assessment made on us for account of expense thereof, I do not believe I understand just what this organization is nor its objects. I have understood all along there was some sort of an organization among the General Managers or chief operating officials of the Trunk Lines but did not know there was anything that embraced all the lines between Buffalo, Pittsburg, Wheeling and Chicago, and I would like to know a little more definitely just what this organization is and its scope and purpose before I can give you an expression of my views as to our going ahead with the other lines mentioned on the bill which Mr. Besler has approved with this organization.

Yours truly,

  
President.

Enc.

17092

February 6th, 1905.

17092  
Mr. W. H. Truesdale,  
President.

Dear Sir:-

I beg leave to hand you the enclosure from Vice President Bealer of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, referring to a satisfactory meeting which met at 24 Park Place, New York City on February 2nd.

Not realizing the importance of this meeting, in fact not knowing very much about it, and my time being so valuable here in Scranton the first week in each month, I did not make much of an effort to go.

I met Mr. Bealer in New York last Saturday night at a meeting of the International Railway Congress Committee and he informed me that this meeting above referred to was of unusual interest and importance, there being a great deal of enthusiasm shown and good faith promised. Mr. Bealer believes that the result in cooperation in wage questions, etc., will be of great benefit to the entire membership, which please understand is entirely separate and distinct from the General Managers' Association of New York. I am not overstocked with faith in such enterprises, although I believe that if good faith should prevail absolutely throughout, nothing could be utilized to better advantage. I should like, therefore, to have an expression of your views before I reply definitely to Mr. Bealer as to our membership.

Yours truly,

C/H

General Superintendent.

17092

February 6th, 1905.

17092

Mr. W. G. Besler,  
Vice President & Gen'l Manager, C.R.R. of N.J.,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Besler:-

Your confidential letter of 3rd instant duly received and carefully noted. It is very gratifying indeed to me to know that the meeting referred to was so well attended and satisfactory in the result. I regret that circumstances would not permit me to be present, although I doubt if the absence of a representative from this road among so much talent could be seriously felt. You were quite correct in assuming that we are in full sympathy and will cooperate to any extent so long as good faith is maintained.

Yours truly,

C/H

General Superintendent.

17092

X

February 6th, 1905.

17092

Mr. W. H. Truesdale,  
President.

Dear Sir:-

I beg leave to hand you the enclosure from Vice President Besler of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, referring to a special meeting which occurred at 24 Park Place, New York City on February 2nd.

I met Mr. Besler in New York last Saturday night at a meeting of the International Railway Congress Committee and he informed me that the special meeting was of unusual interest and importance, there being a great deal of enthusiasm shown and good faith promised. Mr. Besler believes that the result in cooperation in wage questions, etc., will be of great benefit to the entire membership which, please understand, is entirely separate and distinct from the General Managers' Association of New York. I am not overstocked with faith in such enterprises, although I believe that if good faith should prevail absolutely throughout, nothing could be utilized to better advantage. I should like, therefore, to have an expression of your views before I reply definitely to Mr. Besler as to our membership.

Respectfully yours,

C/H

General Superintendent.

Central X

Wesler.  
Gen'l Manager.

Jersey

air

February 3rd, 1905.

*Confidential*

Mr Clarke,

Gen'l Sup't, D.,

Scranton Pa.

Dear Mike:-

meeting

W. I. Mark yesterday

me so it than any meeting you have ever attended.

The result

the meeting was that twenty-four lines, comprising territory

from St. Louis and Chicago to New York have formed themselves into

an Association, with an Executive Committee composed of -

Mr. G. L. Peck,	Gen'l Mg'r, Penna. Lines West of P'burg,
Mr. A. H. Smith,	Gen'l Mg'r, N. Y.C. & H. R. R. R.,
Mr. N. D. Maher,	Gen'l Mg'r, Norfolk & Western R. R.

I was elected Chairman.

A statistician, with clerical force, was authorized and work of compiling information for use of this Association will be vigorously prosecuted. An assessment of \$100 was ordered, and on behalf of the Lackawanna I stated that I believed that you would be glad to be identified with the Association, and believed that you would wish to become a member. Did I do right?

Yours truly,

*Wesler*

Vice Pres. & Gen'l Mg'r.

I don't think it fair  
either to yourself or me to  
turn Rusk over to me  
on this matter

When you sent me  
voucher for the \$100 with  
Rusk's brief letter about

3/ I find  
the paper  
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