

UTAHNA THEATRE CHANGES HANDS

War Between Rival Factions Is Settled by Gourley's Selling.

TRUST IS NOW IN CONTROL

NORTHWESTERN THEATRICAL
COMPANY GETS HOUSE.

The Northwestern Theatrical[®] company assumed control of the Utahna stock company of Salt Lake and Ogden yesterday afternoon, when William R. Gourley sold out his interests. Mr. Gourley, together with S. H. Taylor, G. A. Ertman and J. L. Dignan, had about 9,000 shares of stock in the company. Although no figures were given out by General Manager R. A. Grant of the Northwestern company, it is understood that Mr. Gourley and his associates received \$1.50 per share for their stock, which amounts to \$14,500. Their original investment was small.

The strife between the two factions ended at a meeting held yesterday afternoon at the office of the Utahna stock company. "Dick" P. Sutton of Butte, John Cort of Seattle and D. L. Weaver of Spokane represented the Northwestern Theatrical company, and Mr. Gourley, G. A. Ertman and J. L. Dignan represented the Utahna stock company. It is said that the Northwestern company had decidedly the better of the argument and finally Mr. Gourley was forced to name his price. Before the deal was closed, however, Mr. Gourley signed an agreement that he would not incorporate another theatrical company in Salt Lake City or Ogden.

New Company Formed.

After the meeting the representatives of the Northwestern company held a meeting and organized a company to be known as the Utahna Theatre company. A board of directors was elected, as follows: O. M. Runyon, president; R. A. Grant, vice president; George J. Kelly, secretary and treasurer; John Cort and Richard P. Sutton.

The name of the theatre was changed to the Lyric theatre, and improvements will be commenced at once on the building. Several hundred dollars will be spent in Salt Lake and Ogden for remodeling their amusement houses. The theatrical season will open Aug. 27 and a new company will appear each week.

The Northwestern Theatrical company, which is an adjunct of the theatrical trust, now has seventy-two amusement houses under its control between Kansas City and San Francisco. Forty companies of forty persons each are on this western circuit and play at every theatre owned by the company during the season.

Mr. Gourley stated yesterday that he intended to leave for Denver in a few days. He said that he had not decided to go into the theatre business in Denver, but would open up a stock company somewhere in Colorado.