Timeline of Transition of Southern Pacific Company 1890-1901

1883 Harriman joined the Illinois Central's board of directors when Stuyvesant Fish became Vice President.¹

1887 Harriman became Vice-President of the Illinois Central when Stuyvesant Fish became President.²

1890 CP Huntington maneuvered, with the help of Hopkins interests and acquiescence of Crocker interests, to have himself elected President of SPCo in place of Leland Stanford, who had been President of SPCo since its founding in 1884. At the meeting Charles F (Fred) Crocker elected 1st VP; AN Towne, the General Manager, elected 2nd VP; and JC Stubbs, the Traffic Manager, elected 3rd VP, with all being made directors of SPCo as well. CP Huntington corresponded with all three regularly, but viewed Charles F Crocker as weak, while Crocker had his own complaints about CP Huntington. Another important SPCo official that CP Huntington relied on in San Francisco was WH Mills, head of the SP land company and a nephew of Mark Hopkins.³

April 6, 1892 SPCo board appointed HE Huntington as First Assistant to the President, and representing the President in San Francisco in his absence. At that time the family representatives in the SPCo management were as follows: CP Huntington (of course) representing the Huntington interests; Leland Stanford representing the Stanford interests; Charles F Crocker (eldest son of Charles Crocker who had died in 1888) representing the Crocker interests; and Edward T. Searles, second husband of Mark Hopkins’ widow representing the Hopkins/Searles interests, Mark Hopkins having died in 1878 and his widow died in 1891 – the Hopkins/Searles interests actually controlled by New York lawyers (General) Thomas H. Hubbard and Thomas E. Stillman who were friendly to CP Huntington.⁴

May 2, 1892 CP Huntington purchased (in his wife, Arabella’s name) the San Francisco Nob Hill mansion formerly the property of David Colton.⁵

⁴ Thorpe, pp 90-92.
⁵ Thorpe, p 98.
Dec 2, 1892  Jay Gould died, leaving George Gould as head of the family and the Union Pacific effectively without leadership. Sidney Dillon had died in June and Bishop John Sharp (very much a part of the Union Pacific leadership and representative of the interests of Brigham Young and the Mormon Church) had died the previous December. S. H. H. Clark had taken over as president when Dillon died, but Clark was a Gould man and when Gould died, Clark lost his influence against the bankers and the government in the fight over repaying the floating debt and the government bonds. *(Klein, pp. 645-652)*

April 5, 1893  SPCo Board of Directors and Officers elected this date:

*Directors* —
CP Huntington, New York
EH Pardee, New York
Thomas H Hubbard, New York
Leland Stanford, San Francisco
Charles F Crocker, San Francisco
AN Towne, San Francisco
JC Stubbs, San Francisco
NT Smith, San Francisco
ST Gage, San Francisco
HE Huntington, San Francisco
George Crocker, San Francisco

*Executive Committee*
Leland Stanford, Chairman; CP Huntington; CF Crocker; TH Hubbard

*Officers* —
CP Huntington, President, New York
Charles F Crocker, 1st VP, San Francisco
AN Towne, 2nd VP, San Francisco
JC Stubbs, 3rd VP, San Francisco
EH Pardee, 4th VP, New York
IE Gates, acting VP and Asst Secretary, New York
HE Huntington, 1st Assistant to the President, San Francisco
William Mahl, 2nd Assistant to the President, New York
GL Lansing, Secretary and Comptroller, San Francisco
NT Smith, Treasurer, San Francisco
Richard Gray, General Traffic Manager, San Francisco
E Hawley, Assistant General Traffic Manager, New York
AN Towne, General Manager, Pacific System, San Francisco
JA Fillmore, General Superintendent, Pacific Lines, San Francisco

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6 [http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php](http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php)
AC Hutchinson, President, Atlantic Lines, New Orleans
J Krutschnitt (sic), General Manager, Atlantic System, Houston.

June 21, 1893  
Death of Leland Stanford.

June 27, 1893  
New York stock market collapses, resulting in 4-year depression.

June-Aug 1893  
Jane Stanford wanted cash to settle Leland Stanford’s estate and bequests. She refused to sign any notes for SPCo or to use her portion of SPCo’s securities as collateral for essential loans, as did CF Crocker.

June-Dec 1893  
CP Huntington negotiating a line of credit with Speyer & Co for $5-10 million - with good collateral, 6% interest, and commission - to see SPCo through the depression. In 1893-94 many banks closed and many railroads went into receivership, including the Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, and Santa Fe. SPCo came close to failing in 1893, but managed to avoid it. HE Huntington’s brother, Willard Huntington, who had been an official with SPCo in San Francisco for some time, also lost his salary at this time.

July 13, 1893  
CF Crocker resigned as President of Pacific Improvement Co, and HE Huntington elected President in his place. Pacific Improvement Co held the securities that represented the major wealth of the four associate families and their ownership of SPCo.

Aug 1893  
HE Huntington elected a director of Wells Fargo & Co.

Sept 1893  
HE Huntington engineered a major consolidation of San Francisco street railways, combining control and management of the City’s largest system, SPCo owned Market Street Railway, with the next largest one, the Powell Street system, with HE Huntington in control.

Oct 13, 1893  
The bondholders and the federal government forced Union Pacific into receivership. The government construction bonds issued between 1865 and 1869 were due and the railroad still owed $11.8

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8 Thorpe, p 106.
9 http://www.psta.com/articlerailroadtimeline.htm
10 Thorpe, p 106.
11 Thorpe, pp 104-106.
12 Thorpe, p 106. It may be that HE Huntington encouraged/engineered CF Crocker’s resignation.
13 Thorpe, p 107.
14 Thorpe, p 107.
million of the original $18.8 million. Fred Ames died on September 12. He was the last of the directors that had been fighting receivership. *(Klein, pp. 657, 658)* The receivership also included the Echo & Park City Railway, which Union Pacific had controlled since July 1, 1881. *(44 Val Rep 193)*

Dec 7, 1893  Election of new President of Central Pacific to replace the late Leland Stanford. CF Crocker, 1st VP, declined and suggested HE Huntington, who was elected President.

Jan 9, 1894  CF Crocker announced to CP Huntington by letter that the principal owners of the CP (and SPCo?) needed to discontinue their active business association and make a financial settlement among themselves.

March 3, 1894  The foreign stockholders of CPRR strenuously objected to SPCo dictating policy to CPRR, through the London office of Speyer & Co. Speyer & Co also expressed serious doubt about the financial strength of both CPRR and SPCo, and CP Huntington’s personal financial situation, and declined to handle any more securities under the current situation.

March 1894  HE Huntington resigned as President of CPRR, and both he and CF Crocker resigned as directors of CPRR. Isaac Requa, head of the Oakland Bank of Savings, elected to succeed HE Huntington as director and President.

April 1894  Representatives of the four principal owning families met in San Francisco and agreed to work together and sign notes for financial support of the SPCo, greatly improving the view in New York financial and securities circles.

June 23, 1894  Strike of the American Railway Union (ARU) against the Pullman Company began in Chicago. Part of the strike was for ARU members on various railroads not to handle any Pullman cars.

June 27, 1894  Strike reached San Francisco on June 27. HE Huntington sent CP Huntington a telegram urging “a fight to the finish.” CP Huntington sent AN Towne a hard-line telegram directing that all

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15 http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php
16 Thorpe, p 107. This was taken by the press as a sign of friendlier relations among the various representatives of the SPCo than had been the case in the recent past.
17 Thorpe, p 108.
18 Thorpe, p 108.
19 Thorpe, p 108.
20 Thorpe, p 108.
employees who refused to take out trains should be fired, and told they would never be hired again.\textsuperscript{22}

June 28, 1894 ARU ordered a general strike against SPCo.\textsuperscript{23}

June 29, 1894 HE Huntington wrote a 3,000 work essay putting the SPCo case before the public, published in many newspapers. It took a very narrow view of SPCos’ public responsibility and was not well received.\textsuperscript{24}

July 1-2, 1894 Troops (State Militia?) called out. Riots July 2-3.\textsuperscript{25}

July 2, 1894 Second HE Huntington letter, 1800 words, published in many papers. Again poorly received. The \textit{Oakland Times}, for instance, observed that “The railroads are taking exactly the same pernicious and destructive principle which they denounce as so unjust.”\textsuperscript{26}

July 2, 1894 HE Huntington sent a telegram to CP Huntington urging him not to send any more conciliatory messages to AN Towne. He reported he was working hard to keep General Manager Towne and General Superintendent JA Fillmore backing down and giving any concessions at all to striking employees.\textsuperscript{27} Of course, Towne and Fillmore only were doing the same thing they had done in the past that had successfully kept major strikes from happing on the SPCo.

July 3, 1894 HE Huntington reported to CP Huntington that a mob of 1500-2000 people had broken into the SP yards in Sacramento, captured a train, and switched cars around. The National Guard (State Militia?) was ordered out.\textsuperscript{28}

July 6, 1894 SPCo employees told to return to work by 4:00 pm or consider themselves terminated.\textsuperscript{29}

July 11, 1894 A train on the Yolo Causeway west of Sacramento was intentionally derailed, with 5 people killed (including US Railway Post Office employees in the mail car).\textsuperscript{30}

July 13, 1894 HE Huntington reported to CP Huntington that a switch engine in Sacramento yards with “regular troops” was stoned and fired on by

\textsuperscript{22} Thorpe, p 109.
\textsuperscript{23} Thorpe, p 109.
\textsuperscript{24} Thorpe, pp 109-110.
\textsuperscript{25} Thorpe, p 110.
\textsuperscript{26} Thorpe, p 110.
\textsuperscript{27} Thorpe, pp 110-111.
\textsuperscript{28} Thorpe 111.
\textsuperscript{29} Thorpe, p 111.
\textsuperscript{30} Thorpe, p 111.
strikers, with soldiers returning fire, killing 2-3 and capturing 13.  
(Regular Army troops from the San Francisco Presidio had replaced the State Militia in Sacramento which had sympathized with the striker too much.)

July 21, 1894
HE Huntington reported to CP Huntington that the ARU strike against SPCo was over. He reported that only about 5% of engineers and conductors went on strike against the SPCo.  

Spring 1895
A separate receiver is named for the OSL&UN. *(Trottman p. 261)*

July 16, 1895
Death of AN Towne, long time General Manager and 2nd Vice President of SPCo. (HE Huntington interested in 2nd VP position.)

Aug 1895
JA Fillmore, General Superintendent of SP, appointed 2nd VP of SPCo. Julius Kruttschnitt appointed General Manager of SPCo.

June 30, 1896
SPCo Board of Directors and Officers in office as of this date:

**Directors** –
CP Huntington, New York  
Thos H Hubbard, New York  
Thos E Stillman, New York  
Chas F Crocker, San Francisco  
John C Stubbs, San Francisco  
NT Smith, San Francisco  
HE Huntington, San Francisco  
Russell J Wilson, San Francisco  
WH Crocker, San Francisco  
CG Lathrop, San Francisco  
AL Tubbs, San Francisco

**Officers** –
CP Huntington, President, New York  
Charles F Crocker, 1st VP, San Francisco  
Thomas H Hubbard, 2nd VP, New York  
JC Stubbs, 3rd VP, San Francisco  
HE Huntington, 1st Assistant to the President, San Francisco  
IE Gates, acting VP and Asst Secretary, New York  
William Mahl, 2nd Asst to the President and Controller, New York  
J Kruttschnitt, General Manager, San Francisco  
EC Wright, Secretary and Assistant Controller, San Francisco

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31 Thorpe, p 112.  
32 Thorpe, p 112-113.  
33 [http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php](http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php)  
34 Thorpe, pp 138-139.  
35 Thorpe, p 139.
CF Krebs, Assistant Secretary, Louisville
NT Smith, Treasurer, San Francisco
Charles H Tweed, General Counsel, New York
Richard Gray, General Traffic Mgr, Pacific System San Francisco
E Hawley, Asst General Traffic Mgr, Pacific System, New York
JA Fillmore, Manager, Pacific System, San Francisco
R Koehler, Manager Line in Oregon, Portland
JG Schriever, Gen Traffic Mgr, Atlantic Properties, New Orleans
WG VanVleck, Manager, Atlantic Properties, New Orleans.

June 30, 1896
CPRR Officers in office as of this date:
Isaac Requa, President, San Francisco
CP Huntington, 1st VP, New York
William H. Mills, 2nd VP, San Francisco
IE Gates, 3rd VP, New York
WM Thompson, Secretary and Auditor, San Francisco
William H. Mills, Treasurer, San Francisco
WF Herrin, General Solicitor and Chief Counsel, San Francisco
William H. Mills, Land Agent, San Francisco

Feb 23, 1897
The property of old Oregon Short Line & Utah Northern Railway was sold to the new Oregon Short Line Railroad, incorporated for the purpose in Utah on February 1, 1897. On January 9, the receivers had sold the property to the reorganization committee, who then sold it to the OSL. (OSL corporate history)

March 5, 1897
The new OSL took possession of the OSL&UN on March 5, 1897. (OSL corporate history) (Trottman, p. 261, gives date as "early 1897"). (The Salt Lake Daily Tribune of March 16, 1897 says that the transfer took place "last night, at midnight", March 15, 1897.)

July 17, 1897
Death of Charles F (Fred) Crocker, 1st Vice President of SPCo and representative of the Crocker family interests. Also President of the Market Street Ry, with HE Huntington as VP. George Crocker became lead Crocker family representative. (HE Huntington lobbied CP Huntington for the 1st VP position of SPCo.)

Nov 1, 1897
Foreclosure sale of Union Pacific Ry in Omaha frees UP from its debt obligations to Federal government. Reorganization put together by Jacob Schiff, of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. New Union Pacific

37 Report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners of the State of California, 1896, p 111.
38 http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php
39 http://utahrails.net/up/up-in-ut-1.php
40 Thorpe, pp 139-140.
Railroad (UPRR) chartered in Utah, incorporated for the purpose on July 1, 1897. (Utah corporation number 2083) The organization of the new Union Pacific had been approved by an act of the Utah Legislature on January 22, 1897. (Poor's, 1929, p. 1051) The new Union Pacific took possession of the old Union Pacific on January 31, 1898. (Trottman, p. 269). Winslow S. Pierce, chief counsel of George Gould, was Chairman of the board; Horace G. Burt from the Chicago & Northwestern was President. EH Harriman was on the board, and a member of the executive committee.  

Dec 2, 1897 At SPCo board meeting General Hubbard (representative of the Hopkins/Searles interests) became 1st VP of SPCo, and George Crocker became 2nd VP. HE Huntington became President of Market Street Ry. (ie – HE Huntington lost out on what he wanted, and got what he wasn’t interested in. There was an internal power struggle with the other three owner families feeling they had too little voice in the management of SPCo under CP Huntington, and claiming that HE Huntington ran the company in San Francisco in an arbitrary manner. CP Huntington trying to conciliate others, especially George Crocker.)  

May 23, 1898 EH Harriman named chairman of the UPRR executive committee.  

Sept 1898 Union Pacific control of the Oregon Short Line cemented.  

Nov 26, 1898 At suggestion of General Hubbard, CP Huntington asked HE Huntington to resign as President of Pacific Improvement Co so that George Crocker could be appointed to that position.  

Jan 17, 1899 HE Huntington resigned as a director of SPCo.  

April 6, 1899 HE Huntington resigned as assistant to the President “for reasons that are quite satisfactory to myself.”  

Aug 1899 Harriman secures agreement with Northern Pacific giving Union Pacific control of Oregon Railroad & Navigation.

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42 Thorpe, p 141.  
43 Klein, Harriman, p 116.  
44 Klein, Harriman, p 152.  
45 Thorpe, p 141.  
46 Thorpe, p 141.  
47 Thorpe, p 141.  
48 Klein, Harriman, pp 157-158.
Sept 1899  CP Huntington negotiated the buyout of the Crocker and Stanford interests, at a price they gladly accepted, by his investment banker, James Speyer & Company, buyout beginning this month. Purchased was leveraged by debt by SPCo through sale of a bond issue handled by Speyer & Co.\(^{49}\)

Oct 30, 1899  CP Huntington wrote HE Huntington advising him on the how to handle the transition period, that HE Huntington should give advice to SP departments that they might request, and saying that once the Crockers and Stanfords were out that he (CPH) and (General) Hubbard “would work in perfect harmony.”\(^{50}\)

Nov 15, 1899  CP Huntington wrote HE Huntington saying that Speyer & Co wanted the SPCo board composed mostly of (their) people in the East, to have a new person as 1\(^{st}\) VP in San Francisco, and for HE Huntington to be assistant to the President (again). HE Huntington wired CP Huntington in response that with his experience he could not accept the position offered, that with some other 1\(^{st}\) VP in San Francisco there would be no use in his remaining there, and suggesting that (under those conditions) he be left out of the question entirely.\(^{51}\)

Dec 21, 1899  HE Huntington and Julius Kruttschnitt ordered to leave San Francisco for New York for consultations.

Feb 28, 1900  George Crocker officially resigned as 2\(^{nd}\) Vice President of SPCo, although he had been gone since around the previous October (thus some of the confusion and uncertainty in the San Francisco office prompting correspondence between CP Huntington and HE Huntington mentioned above).\(^{52}\)

March 1900  CP Huntington comes to San Francisco by private train. HE Huntington also returns in his own car in the same train, and resumed work with SPCo.\(^{53}\)

April 1900  At SPCo board meeting, HE Huntington elected a director, and appointed 2\(^{nd}\) VP (filling George Crocker’s place), with General Hubbard (based in New York) remaining as 1\(^{st}\) VP. All other directors from California – Kruttschnitt, Stubbs, and three others –

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\(^{49}\) Thorpe, p 142. This might have been a strategic error by CP Huntington, as it gave Speyer & Co. major control over SPCo.

\(^{50}\) Thorpe, p 143.

\(^{51}\) Thorpe, p 143.

\(^{52}\) Thorpe, pp 142-144.

\(^{53}\) Thorpe, p 144.
had to step down to make room for new directors form the East chosen by Speyer.  

June 1900  
CP Huntington and Speyer & Co bought out the Hopkins/Searles interests and removed General Hubbard, electing HE Huntington as 1st VP of SPCo. Charles H. Tweed, CP Huntington’s New York lawyer and friend, elected 2nd VP.  

Aug 13, 1900  
Death of CP Huntington at his camp, Pine Knot, in the Adirondacks. HE Huntington went directly to New York.  

Sept 1900  
CP Huntington will, signed March 13, 1897, made public. Arrabella Huntington, Edwin Gates, and Charles Tweed executors. Nearly 2/3 of SPCo stock (and other assets) to wife Arabella Huntington, and 1/3 of SPCo stock (and other assets) to nephew HE Huntington.  

Oct 1900  
SPCo Presidential selection committee consisted of Charles H Tweed, DO Mills, and James Speyer. Charles H Tweed selected as Chairman of SPCo. Charles M Hayes, then general manager of the Grand Trunk Ry of Canada, selected as President at the insistence of Sir James Rivers Wilson of London, a leading foreign investor in Speyer’s activities.  

Nov 1900  
HE Huntington returned to San Francisco from New York, where he had largely been since August handling matters. Resumed SPCo duties. Briefly returned to New York in Dec 1900 for consultations with Tweed and Hayes. Rumors circulating that the Huntington SPCo stock was for sale, with various buyers mentioned, including the Vanderbilts, JP Morgan, Speyer, and EH Harriman.  

Dec 1900  
EH Harriman started negotiating with James Speyer and Edwin Hawley for the purchase of the Huntington stock.  

Jan 21, 1901  
Arabella Huntington and HE Huntington enter into an agreement to sell their SPCo stock (432,700 shares) for $22 million through Kuhn Loeb & Co, with initial payment in cash for 1/3 of stock on Feb 11, 1901, and second payment (with 4% interest) for

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54 Thorpe, p 144.  
55 Thorpe, p 144; also p 155 on Tweed relationship with CP Huntington.  
56 Thorpe, p 145.  
57 Thorpe, pp 155-156.  
58 Thorpe, pp 161-162.  
59 Thorpe, pp 162-163.  
60 Klein, Harriman, p 217.
remaining 2/3 of stock on July 10, 1901. Buyer is HE Harriman’s Union Pacific RR – Speyer had lost control.  

Feb 1901  Kuhn, Loeb & Co sold 750,000 shares of SPCo stock, representing 37.5%, to Union Pacific.  

April 1901  HE Huntington reelected to board of SPCo at EH Harriman’s request, although he did not play an active roll in the management.  

April 1902  Ending his last substantial investment in San Francisco, HE Huntington sold his stock in the Market Street Ry in the fall of 1901 to a Baltimore syndicate, the deal consummated in April 1902. The syndicate reorganized the company as the United Railways of San Francisco.  

Sept 9, 1909  Death of EH Harriman.  

_Courtesy of Kyle Wyatt, CSRM._

Central Pacific Railroad Photographic History Museum  
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61 Thorpe, p 163.  
62 Klein, Harriman, p 218.  
63 Thorpe, p 163.  
64 Thorpe, p 163.  