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WILLIAM T. SHIELDS was born July 19, 1863, in Jackson, Washington County, N. Y. He is the son of John Shields and Ellen O'Brien. He attended the public schools and the Christian Brothers' Academy, and then learned the trade of telegraph operator. He left Troy in 1881 and went to Chicago, where he resided for some time, going thence to St. Louis, where he worked as a telegrapher for eighteen months. Later he was employed in New York. In 1884 he returned to Troy and for a year received the United Press report in the office of the *Standard*. After filling responsible positions in New York he accepted on October 9, 1887, the position of Associated Press operator on the *Telegram*, where for two years he did remarkably fine work which stamped him as one of the best operators in the country. He was one of the charter members of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers in St. Louis and was its financial secretary. He is married, his wife's maiden name being Margaret C. O'Connor. They have two children, both boys.