

**WATCHES ON RAILROADS JIBE**

Southern Pacific Has 6,223 Watches That Do Not Vary 30 Seconds in a Week, Any Weather or Place—Employee Invents New Station Lamp.

San Francisco, August 5—Does your watch vary ten seconds in any 24 hours? Does it vary 30 seconds in a week, whether in hot or cold weather or if held upside down or other unusual positions? The watches of the employees of the Southern Pacific company must show such a record as the above. At any time that they may show such variations they must be regulated. But this regulation is only a part of the tests that are made of the time pieces of the Southern Pacific employees.

Every employee, who in any way comes in contact with the operation of trains on the Southern Pacific, be he superintendent, signal man or section

foreman, is required to own a watch, so adjust as to not exceed a variation of ten seconds in any 24 hours. The examining of each man's watch includes the subjecting of the instrument to a severe test of temperature and the placing of the watch in several different positions in an endeavor to discover a variation. To be retained in service a watch must not show a variation of more than 30 seconds a week. All employees—the term employees including officials—are required to have their time pieces inspected at least four times a year. The watches must be compared with a regulator every two weeks and the watch loaned by the jeweler during repairs must be equally as good as the one being repaired.

The employees of the Southern Pacific company have taken an active interest in the "time service" work as is manifested in the report of the watch inspection for the first quarter of the present year. Within the jurisdiction of E. E. Calvin, vice president and general manager, 6,223 watches are regularly inspected. During the first quarter of 1911 5,622 watches were compared with standard regulators and the general average of the time kept by these watches shows a record of nearly perfect. The superintendents of the company subject the men to discipline if their watches are not compared and inspected regularly and the system of watch inspection on the Southern Pacific is now almost perfect. Trains meet trains exactly upon the second at sidings, and arrivals and departures are much more perfect than in former years as is demonstrated by the recent report of the general superintendent of the northern district to the effect that for the week ending June 10, 1911, out of 4,164 suburban trains arriving at the Oakland pier and Alameda mole of the company, only two failed to connect with the ferry boats.

San Francisco, August 5.—One of the best examples of the benefits that may be derived from the adoption of ideas of employees is being demonstrated on the coast division of the Southern Pacific company lines, where the employees of the signal department have invented and installed with great success an automatic lighting device

for station. The arrangement is most simple. The signal supervisor of the coast division has made the statement that a saving of 75 per cent in the cost of lighting is made at the stations where the device is in operation. The invention, which was approved by T. Ahern, superintendent of the coast division, is worked entirely by means of the block signal system, which system is in operation throughout the Harriman lines.

It has been found so successful at six stations on the coast division that it will soon be adopted at other points along the line. With this automatic device the lights at a station are burning only when a train is approaching, standing at the station or departing therefrom. The length of control of the lights depends entirely upon the distance between the blocks at the station.

The system is flexible because if the first block is too close to the station it can be carried further on to the next block. More lights can be used with this device and at a less cost than when there were fewer lights, the cost being governed, of course, by the number of trains and the time the trains consume while in the blocks. Those who have installed the system and who have paid particular attention to it say that for an equal cost it is possible to have a great many more lights at a station than formerly.

**NEWS FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK.**

Washington, D. C., August 5.—The week is expected to see the end of the special session of congress and the departure of the president and the members of both houses for their belated summer vacations. The vote on the Arizona-New Mexico statehood bill, the last important item on the legislative calendar, is fixed for Monday.

Admiral Togo, the famous Japanese naval commander now visiting the United States, will spend the early part of the week in Washington, where several notable dinners are to be given in his honor. He will go to Philadelphia Wednesday and after a visit of one day in that city he is to become the guest of New York City.

The department of agriculture crop report showing the condition of the principal crops on August 1 will be issued Wednesday afternoon. It will announce also the preliminary estimate of yield and quality of winter wheat, the acreage of buckwheat, hay and rye, and stocks of oats and barley in farmers' hands on August 1.

The Michigan school of mines at Houghton will celebrate its quarter centennial during the week. President Taft has designated Secretary of Commerce and Labor to represent the administration at the celebration.

Astoria, Ore., is to begin a notable celebration of the 100th anniversary of the arrival on the Pacific coast of the expedition sent from New York by John Jacob Astor, which formed the first American settlement at Astoria and gave the United States its strongest claim to the Oregon country. The celebration is to last an entire month and will be conducted on an elaborate scale.

**PLAYS AND PLAYERS.**

Anna Held has arranged to start from Paris next week. Her tour will begin in September.

John Drew will open with "The Single Man" at the Empire theatre, in New York, on Labor day.

Under the title of "The Mysterious Jimmy," a French version of "Allas Jimmy Valentine" is arousing curiosity in Paris.

Gus Hill announces he will send out a real "old timers" minstrel show next season, containing a number of performers of the old days.

Jane Kelton, leading woman of the American Stock company at Spokane, Wash., has played 211 parts since the company was organized six years ago.

Margaret Dale and Elsie Leslie will support George Aliss in his forthcoming production of Louis N. Parker's "Diarrell" at Wallack's theatre, New York, in September.

Harrison Grey Fliske has gone to London to complete arrangements for the production next season at one of the New York theatres of Edward Knoblauch's Arabian Nights play, "Kismet," now running at the Garrick theatre, London.

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