

Electric Railroads Added Bus Lines During 1924

NEW YORK (AP)—Service extensions by both rail and bus lines totalling more than 2,000 miles throughout the United States were made by electric railroads during 1924. J. N. Shannahan, president of the American Electric Railway Association announced today. Most of this extension was made by the railroads supplementing their service with buses, but the 512 miles of new rail construction was the most since 1915, Mr. Shannahan said. He added that the coordination of buses and cars into single transportation units in communities was proceeding rapidly and improving service.

"Electric railroads generally throughout the United States held their own during 1924," Mr. Shannahan declared. "In the face of severe industrial depression early in the year, which in some communities decreased traffic ten percent, and an increase of 2,085,550 in pleasure automobiles, the record is remarkable. Final figures for the year indicate total passengers carried will be within two percent of the 15,000,000,000 total for 1923, which set an all time record."

"Today the traffic trend on electric railroads is upward, and indications for a banner year during 1925 are good. The electric railway curve invariably follows the general business trend."

"Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the electric railway business today is the gradual but definite coordination of electric business today is the gradual but managements throughout the country are steadily assuming control of all local transportation, including both rail and motor lines, and coordinating it under one head. One hundred and seventy electric railway companies now are operating a total of 2,500 buses in the extension of passenger service into urban territories whose traffic does not warrant the extension of rail lines, and in supplementing established rail service. The bus has replaced a few car lines, which probably never should have been built, but nowhere has it succeeded in supplying an entire city of any considerable size with complete transportation. Where public officials, citizens and

companies are cooperating in an endeavor to establish the best possible car-bus service, the wildcat bus and jitney is rapidly disappearing through local and state legislation. The pleasure automobile is far more serious competitor of electric railroads than buses.

"Underlying conditions with the electric lines are sound, as evidenced by the way the industry withstood the serious depression of the early part of the year. An increase of only one per cent is shown in operating costs, although wages alone were up two percent. There were 45 wage increases, 12 decreases and 65 renewals without change. The average fare increased from 7.21 in January 1924 to 7.49 in January 1925, or about 3 1/2 per cent."

"Only 13 lines, representing 1822 miles of track and with outstanding securities of 75,000,000 went into receivership. Twenty-two companies, representing 1450 miles of track and \$172,000,000 of securities, were discharged from their financial difficulties."

"A total of 312 miles of new track, the most since 1918, was constructed. A total of \$242,000,000 will be spent in 1925 for new plant and equipment, maintenance, material and supplies, an increase of 20 per cent over the amount spent for similar purposes in 1924."

German Emigrant Rates Disturb English Shippers

LONDON (AP)—German shipping firms have re-established the German mercantile marine with such great success that they are now reported to be threatening a rate war in the emigrant traffic to South America, according to London shipping circles.

The severe restrictions on immigration in the United States have diverted this traffic, particularly so far as eastern and southern Europeans are concerned, to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Emigration to these countries amounted in normal times to about 400,000 persons yearly, but double this number is forecast, and it is said that the German lines are trying to corner the whole of the traffic for themselves by reducing the passenger rates.

There Goes One of His Nine Lives



Woman's Fearsome Pet Lives Warm in Winter

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Mrs. Margaret Cecil, of Dunbar, has a strange taste in pets. In a warm corner of her home lives a boa constrictor, 15 feet long and more than one foot in diameter. It

inhabits a stout trunk of large size, and Mrs. Cecil keeps the reptile carefully wrapped in warm blankets, for it does not like cold weather. Sixteen years ago Mrs. Cecil toured Brazil with a friend. Some one presented her with a young constrictor, two weeks old, and she

accepted the gift. Faithful to her charge, she brought the snake home and raised it. More girls are taking up basket-ball, perhaps because it is such excellent training for bargain counter rumber.

British Find Sleeping Sickness Change Children Completely

LONDON (AP)—Because sleeping sickness has so changed the character of children and made some of them criminals, the authorities are considering the building of special schools for these youngsters. Children who have suffered from the disease, it is said, not only change their character, but deteriorate physically and lose control of their emotions.

Reporting to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Dr. Charles Glyn says: "It seems that the disease may pass through a phase in which physical changes are the only prominent feature, so that crimes may be committed for which the offender is not fully responsible."

Rockefeller Donation Used To Protect French Tapestries

VERSAILLES (AP)—The Franco-American commission entrusted with the task of superintending

the expenditure of the million dollar Rockefeller donation for renovation and repairs at Versailles, Rheims and Fontainebleau, has decided to put men to work immediately restoring the roofs, floors, and drainage system of the Versailles palace.

The work at Rheims and Fontainebleau will not be started until the spring. Such is the dilapidated condition of the palace at Versailles, however, that architects advised immediate work lest rains and another winter utterly spoil priceless tapestries through leaky roofs.

Missing California messenger and \$10,000 was caught in South America. Cop's claim that was carrying it too far.

Ireland to Seek Tourists.

DUBLIN (AP)—The Free State government has decided to take part in the movement for popularizing Ireland as a tourist resort. The minister of commerce has summoned a conference of the various hotels, railway and other interests involved, and it is hoped to bring public bodies in the north into co-operation with the movement.

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