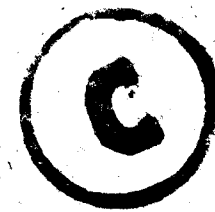


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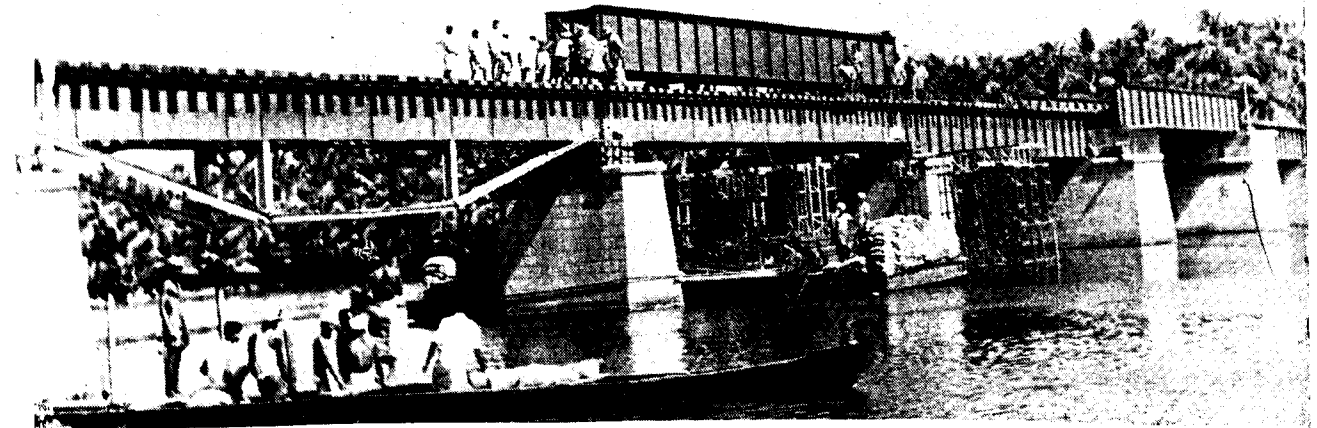
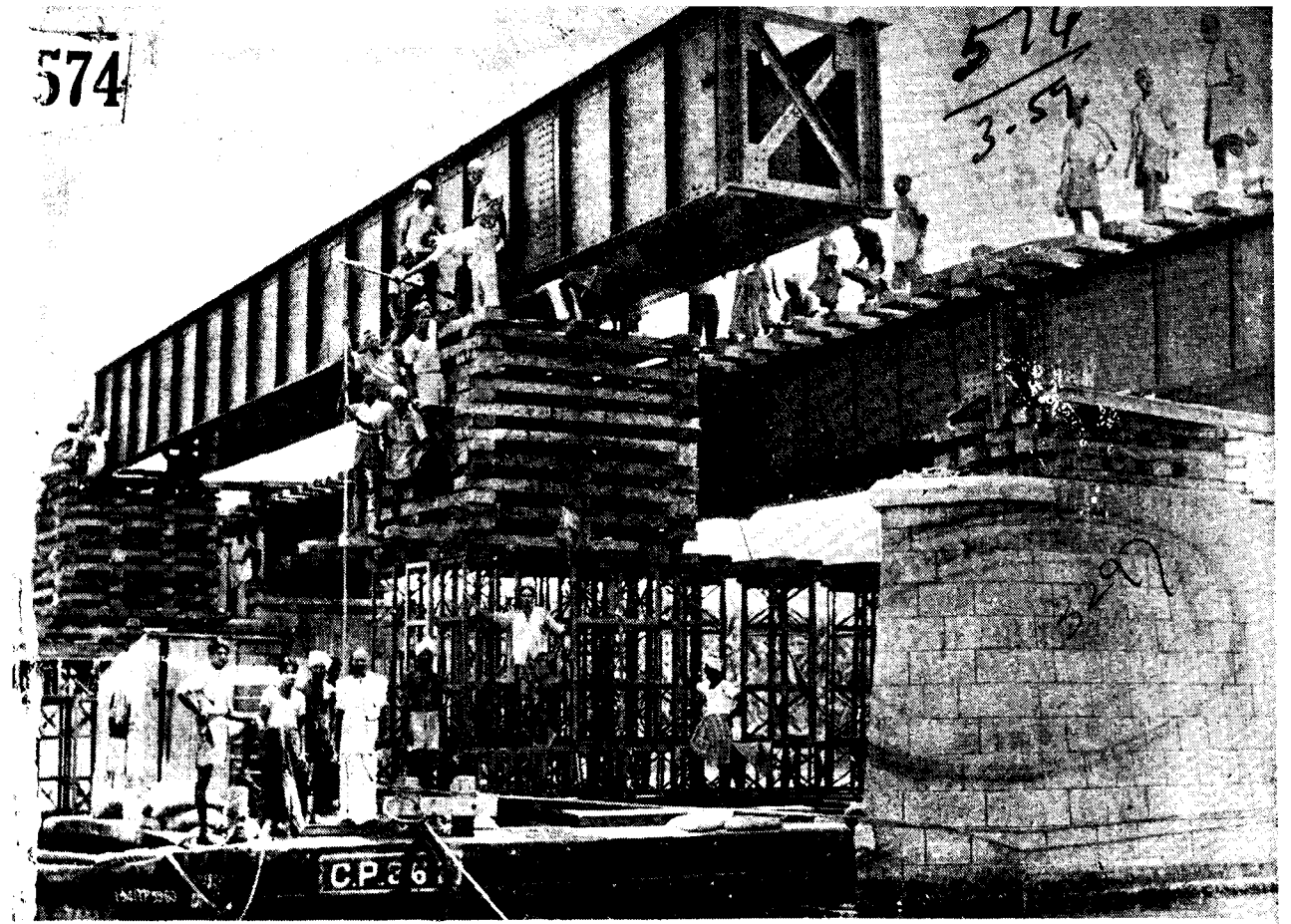


SOUTH RAIL NEWS

No. 3

June, 1959

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VOL. VI

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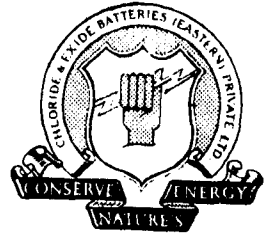
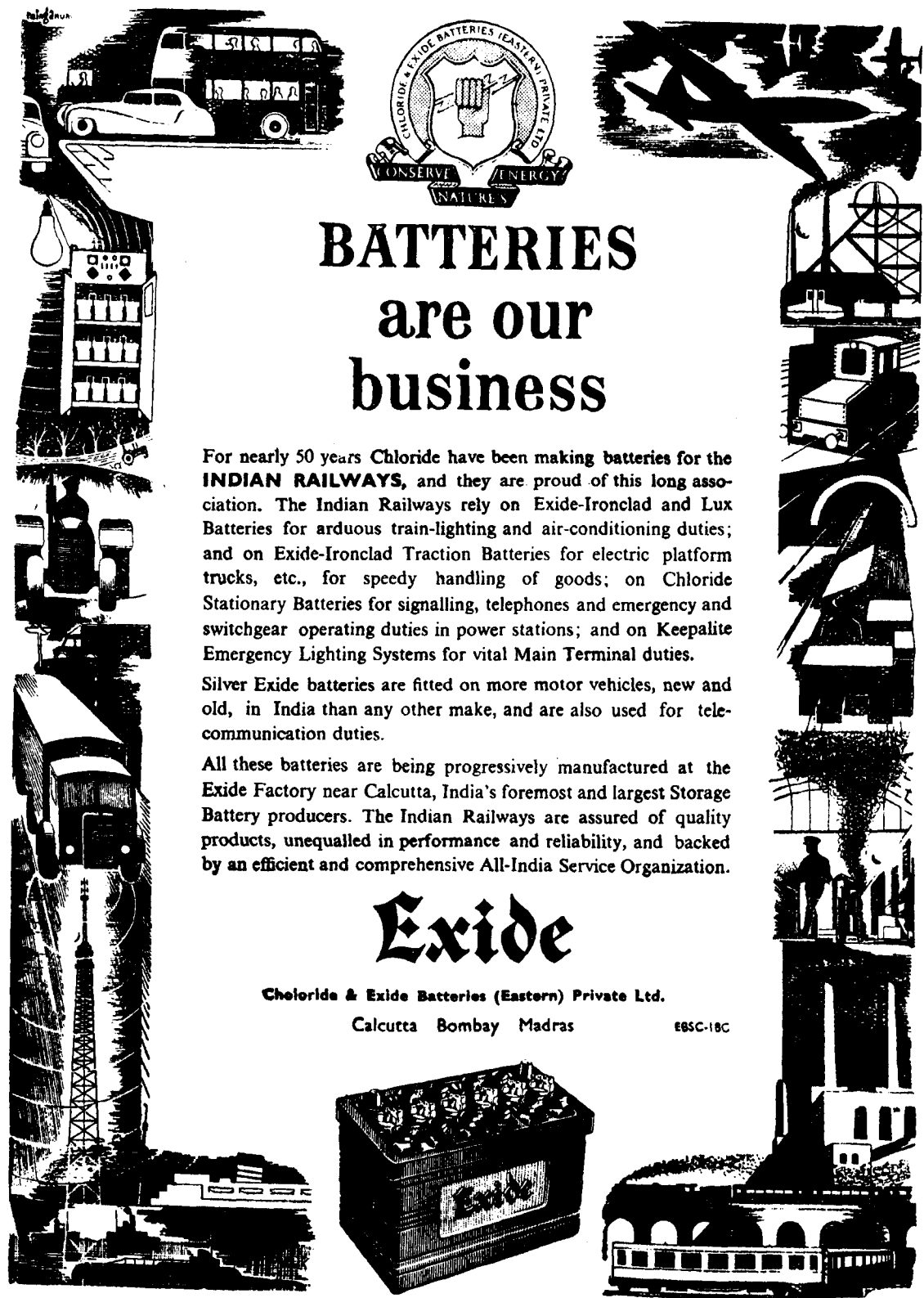
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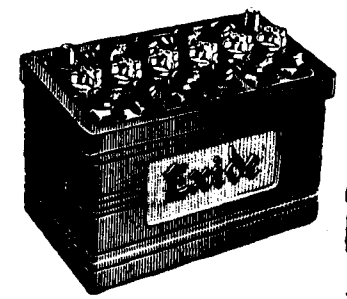
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(Published by the Southern Railway)

VOL. VI

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No. 3

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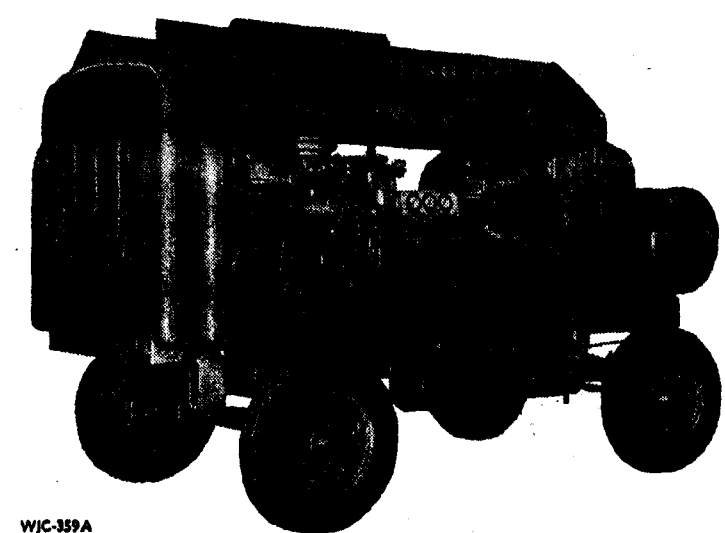
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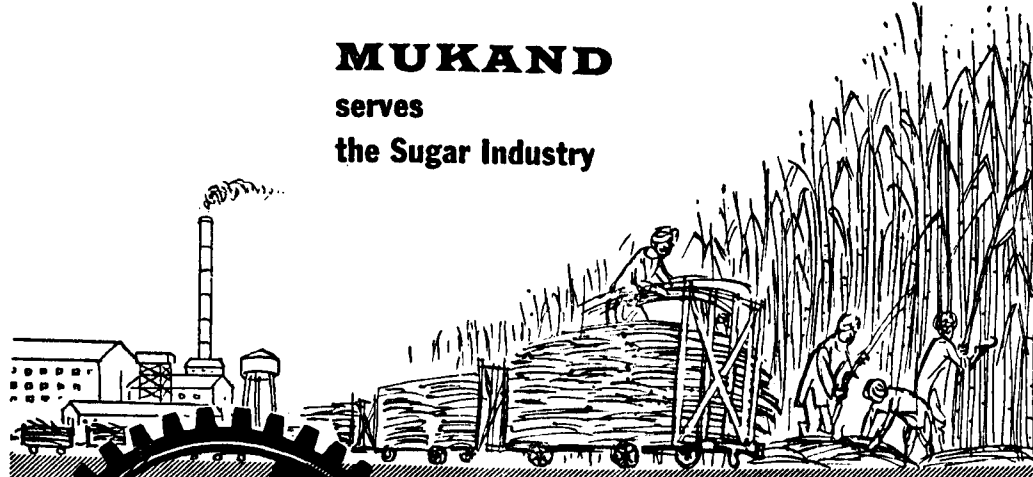
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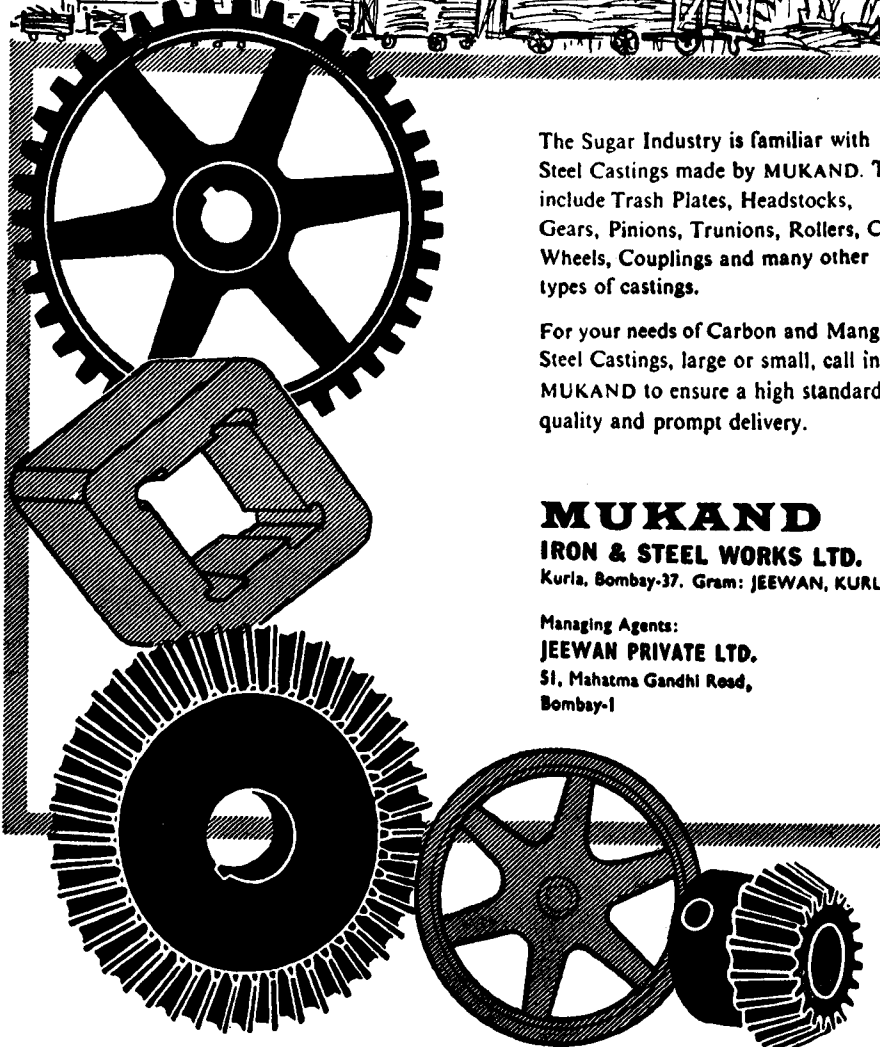


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# SOUTHERN RAIL NEWS

VOL. VI

JUNE 1959

No. 3

## RAILWAY GENERAL MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

ONE of the questions that loomed large in the General Managers' Conference was the need for utmost economy on the one hand and for boosting the railways' revenue on the other hand in order to maintain the financial stability of the railways. Considerable emphasis was given to fuller utilisation of Plant and Machinery in Workshops and greater rationalisation of work. Stricter control on expenditure was one of the subjects which was thrashed out in its various details. It was pointed out that economies were also possible through a sustained campaign for further improvement in operational efficiency.

A question may be asked how can a little waste hurt such a big undertaking such as Railways. It may be pointed out that a little waste day by day at each of our thousands of stations, yards, shops and offices and other work locations can add up to a staggering amount. Recurring expenditure is one of the items which should be avoided if possible. While speaking about economy, it seems relevant to point out a little more care day by day by each employee at each work location can have tremendous results. It is the duty of all ranks of railwaymen to join 'Waste Prevention'. Items which are in a re-usable condition can be re-used. Materials may be used

only for purposes for which they have been designed to be used. Breakages may be avoided by carefulness. Material left over when the job is completed may be promptly returned with a view to economise.

Besides there are certain items of expenditure on Railway such as coal which costs a huge amount. Economy in the use of fuel and coal may result in a major saving. The railways' increasing coal consumption and the resultant higher bills have drawn both popular and Government attention. The various factors which affect the consumption of coal on Indian Railways have recently been reviewed by an Expert Committee set up in 1957. In economising, it is one thing to economise the use of materials, but it is another thing to do a job efficiently and in less time than it was being done previously. Improvement in operating efficiency may result in higher average speed of trains. If a train takes less time to go from a fixed point to another fixed point, it results in economies in coal and fuel, wages of the crew and releases the line for other trains to go

Besides discussing about the need for utmost economy, the conference discussed at some length the need for devising measures calculated to further improve the present service to the commercial community. It was felt that closer contacts should for this purpose be maintained with the representative commercial bodies.

Also General Managers were requested to examine immediately the question of extending to more towns the Street Delivery and Collection Services for goods transported by rail which is now provided in a limited number of towns.

As for the question of amenities, in the Railway Passenger Amenities Programme during the remaining two Second Plan years, top priority will be given to electrification of all the station premises where power is available locally at reasonable rates.

The need was emphasised to gear up the machinery of various railways for handling the anticipated 16 million tons of additional goods traffic in 1959-60. The additional traffic would be made up of 10 million tons of raw-materials and finished goods for

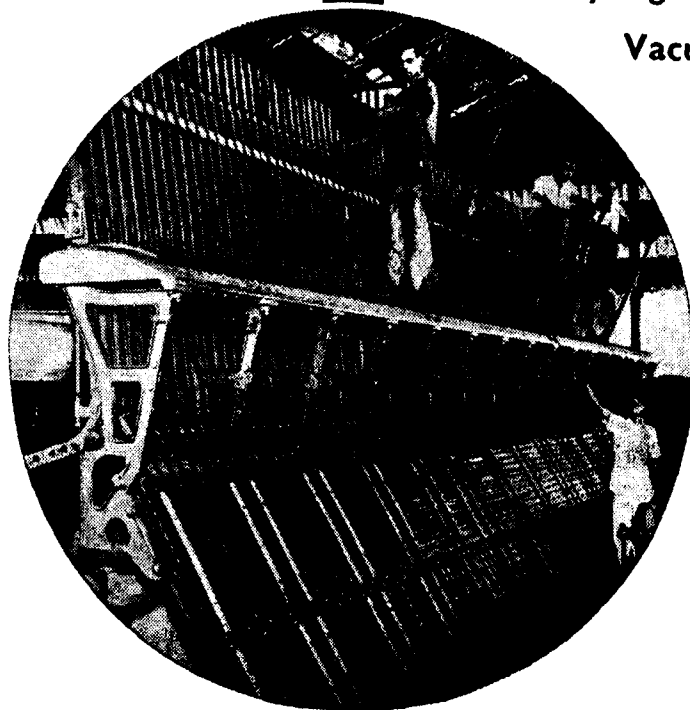
the five Steel Plants. 3 million tons of coal for the public and the railways and 3 million tons of general goods traffic. *Inter alia* a decision was taken to keep a sustained drive to plant more utility and decorative trees along the railway track and on railway land. Incentives could be given to the existing staff for doing this work. The active co-operation of the State Forest Departments would also be enlisted.

The conference is also reported to have discussed matters pertaining to catering, reduction of stores balances, Safety Organisation on Railways and the need for raising productivity in railway workshops.

The important catchword now is "increased productivity." Increased productivity can be achieved by every railwayman doing his best by putting his heart and soul into the work. All our leaders have emphasised on the philosophy of work. One is reminded of Carlyle's saying 'work is worship'. Even the Gita says, skill in works is yoga. It is necessary for every railwayman to put his heart and soul into the work which he has been given to do.

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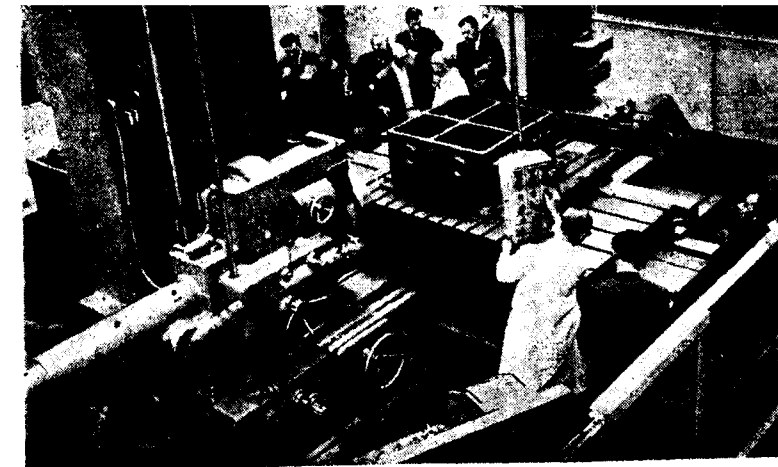
realistic time-table for works which should include the smallest detail such as the time required for obtaining the G.I.R.'s approval, etc. The execution of works should be so planned that the blocks required will not affect the punctuality of trains and in the case of major works the dislocation caused to the trains is reduced to the absolute minimum. He was happy over the sustained efforts on the part of CSTE's in reducing the incidence of failures and hoped that these efforts will continue until all avoidable failures are completely eliminated.

The Member, Engineering, desired that the All-India Signal and Telecommunications School should be fully exploited as part of the plan for the provision of adequately trained staff, and, therefore, the initial and refresher courses should be arranged well in

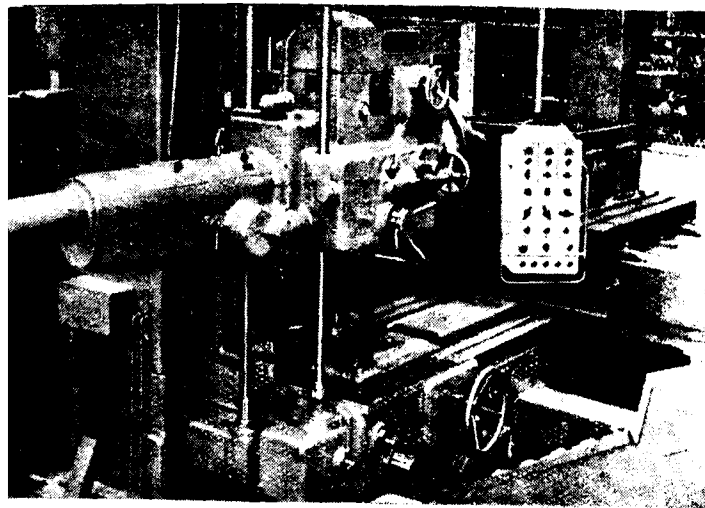
advance so that there is no wastage of training capacity.

Reiterating the importance of signalling as an aid to operation, Sri Karnail Singh asked CSTE's to forge ahead with the introduction of up-to-the minute developments in the world, on the Indian Railways, so that in the near future India takes a lead in this field of activity as it has done in the Civil Engineering and as it will be doing shortly in the field of electric traction. The Board, for its part, will encourage the rapid development of signalling and even if it meant one CTC scheme for each railway, he would be quite prepared to consider it so long as there is adequate justification.

The Member Engineering, Director (S. & T.) and CSTE's, attended a dinner in the main S. & T. Hostel which was also attended by several Divisional Officers and their wives.



General view of the Machine in operation



Close-up of Spindle Slide and Pendant Control

comprises Servo mechanisms operating the vertical traverse of the spindle slide and the transverse and longitudinal traverses of the compound table. Movements can be made to any position according to the co-ordinates which are indicated on dials which are to be seen on the face of the control desk.

Six dials, with clearly displayed figures, are provided for each of the three ordinates to set up any required displacement in tens of inches, inches and four decimals from any pre-determined datum.

The dials can be set individually by hand operation or in groups by means of standard punched cards, a pack of which can be carried in the automatic card reading unit. The cards can be arranged in sequence and when placed in the feed hopper are individually read before being ejected into a collecting hopper. An inspection window is provided to enable the operator, if necessary, to read the top card in the collecting hopper.

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placement figures can be viewed through windows adjacent to each dial.

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## ELECTRIFIED MILEAGE TO BE QUADRUPLD MORE ELECTRIFICATION TO FOLLOW

**KARNAIL SINGH**

*Member, Engineering,*

Thereafter, electrification of the suburban sections of the former G.I.P. and B.B. & C.I. Railways continued apace. In 1931, the Madras-Tambaram section of the South Indian Railway was also electrified. Just before the commencement of the second world war in 1939, the Indian Railways had electrified a total of 240 route miles.

The growth of Calcutta and the Coalfield area in Bengal and Bihar had in the meantime led to a phenomenal increase in traffic in the Calcutta suburban area and on the trunk routes leading from Calcutta. The railway track had already been quadrupled upto Sitarampur—there are five tracks between Howrah and Belur—but even so the density of traffic will soon exceed the capacity. With the proposed setting up of steel plants, increase in coal production, and the setting up of other industries in this area, the need for replacing steam became evident.

As the First Five-Year Plan started, the Indian Railways commenced enquiries in foreign countries about the latest developments of railway electrification in the world. Soon after, a project team, appointed to prepare a comprehensive scheme for electrification of the Calcutta suburban area and of the trunk routes of the Eastern Railway as far as Jhajha, Moghalsarai and Chakradharpur, confirmed the desirability of electrification in this area. As large-scale electrification was beyond the resources of electrical power, as also of money, material and manpower, electrification was taken up in parts. In 1954 electrification of the Calcutta-Burdwan section (including Tarkeshwar Branch) was commenced, and this section was

commissioned in stages and completed on August 15, 1958.

### SECOND PLAN SCHEMES

In the meantime, plans were advanced for the electrification of other sections and a total of 826 route miles were included for electrification in the Second Five-Year Plan. These proposals included electrification of the Calcutta suburban area, of trunk routes from Howrah to Kharagpur (South-Eastern Railway) and to Gomoh (Eastern Railway); from Igatpuri to Bhusawal (Central Railway) and from Tambaram to Villupuram (Southern Railway).

ensure that the crews of steam locomotives are not endangered by the overhead electrical equipment, and to this end the arrangements for watering locomotives require special attention.

able to undertake further projects of this nature independently.

### CALCUTTA ELECTRIFICATION ORGANISATION

The electrification of railways is at present entrusted to the Railway Electrification Organisation, which is manned by nearly 100 engineers—civil, electrical, mechanical, signal and telecommunication—and a large body of technicians and staff.

This organisation is responsible for planning, construction work, and maintaining close liaison with the State electricity authorities and the Damodar Valley Corporation for the supply of power, with the Posts and Telegraphs Department for modification in the communication systems (telephones and telegraph), and with the railways on which the electrification is being undertaken.

The problems of construction are multiplied many times over by the need to keep normal traffic running while electrification is in progress. This calls for the closest liaison between the electrification and operating officers, so that adequate blocks are made available and are fully utilized.

### TRAINING INDIAN PERSONNEL

The training of staff in construction and in the operation and maintenance of equipment is another important activity of the Calcutta Electrification Organisation. The French National Railways have offered considerable facilities for the training of both officers and technicians in France. With the help of men trained abroad, training cells have now been set up in India.

### ELECTRIFICATION DONE BY INDIAN ENGINEERS

The complexity of the problem, the need for wide experience of similar work, and the capacity to find ingenious solutions to new problems all

Training covers many categories of staff, from the locomotive drivers to the maintenance staff for electric stock and overhead equipment. To assist in the training of staff, a special training car which will be a replica of the electric locomotive, is being obtained. This car will provide a mobile school for training various categories of staff in operation, location of faults, and maintenance of electric rolling-stock.

### USE OF INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

Faced with acute shortage of foreign exchange, it has been necessary to make the greatest possible use of indigenous resources. But industry in India, never before faced with this type of work has naturally not developed sufficient capacity to suit the requirements of railway electrification. Vigorous efforts are therefore being made not only to use existing manufacturing facilities fully but also to locate potential capacity and build it up by giving technical assistance.

Where the industry has not been able to assist in indigenous manufacture, efforts have been made to build up capacity in railway workshops. Examples of such enterprise are the setting up of a galvanizing plant and the decision to undertake manufacture of the mechanical parts of electric locomotives—both at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

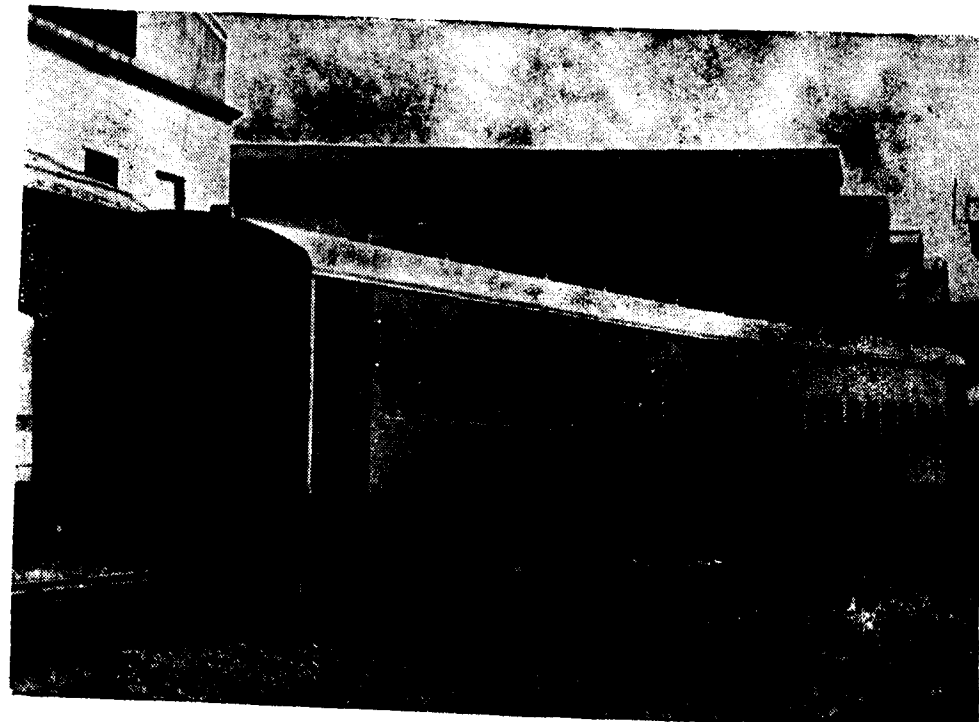
### BUILDING UP "KNOW-HOW"

The technical "know-how" of our own engineers and staff is being developed by giving them field experience of electrification work. The survey of lines and the preliminary design of overhead electrical equipment are already being undertaken by them, and a start will shortly be made on departmental construction and installation of overhead equipment.

The emphasis in present planning is on self-sufficiency. The emphasis on building up technical "know-how" is equally strong, so that Indian engineers and technicians may be able to undertake independently future schemes of electrification.

The prospect is bright, and we hope that within the next decade not only will India be self-sufficient with regard to technical "know-how" and capacity to undertake electrification within the country, but will also be able to assist those of our neighbours who may wish to embark on schemes of railway

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INFORMATION PLEASE

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perhaps twenty minutes before the arrival of train, getting impatient, worrying the Enquiry office about the expected arrival of the train. But the Enquiry office men cannot consider such persons a nuisance, but keep answering questions no matter how often they are asked.

Some Enquiry offices are also responsible for arranging reservation of berths and seats. For this purpose a register is maintained, and requests for reservations noted on a 'first come, first served' basis. It looks quite simple, but when all available reserved accommodation on a train is fully booked up, more will be demanded. And this is where doubts may arise in the minds of the persons asking for reservations. So the Enquiry staff have to use tact in convincing the doubter that accommodation has actually been booked up.

Apart from information relating to railways, the Enquiry men must also be conversant with a considerable amount of miscellaneous information that has nothing to do with railways. One passenger may want to know about local hotels and their rates of charge, another may ask about the local cinemas and what pictures are showing. Some may want to know if the local town has anything of interest to see in the way of history, old monuments or tombs, beauty spots, gardens, buildings, etc. The Enquiry men are also frequently asked about the local taxi, tonga and other transport rates, with which he must be thoroughly familiar.

The Enquiry



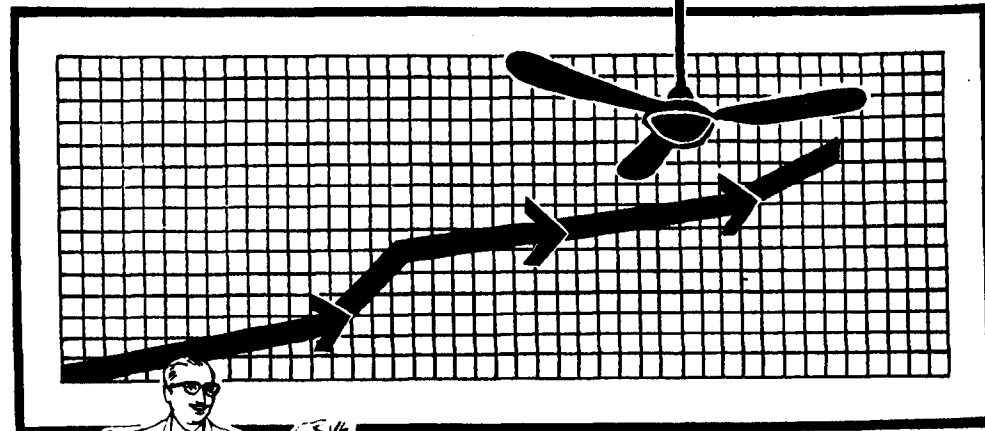


said the auctioneer, searching the room. "My heart stopped, my blood congealed. There was no sound but a curious smothered noise from my friend. "Four thousand and fifty rupees, Once, Twice and Thrice," and the hammer fell!!! That was a nice pickle to be in? Here was I with exactly Rs. 150 in the Post Office and Rs. 100 in my pocket, the purchaser of a picture, I did not want, for four thousand and fifty rupees, the top price of the day! Turning round I found that everybody's eyes were fixed on me, and so with trembling hands I began to feel for my pipe and to plug tobacco calmly into it. My pipe, my only consolation and companion, for, on turning round for some kindly support from my friend, I found that he had left me, but not, as I feared at the moment from baseness, but as I afterwards discovered, in order to find a remote place in which to lean against the wall and laugh. Stunned and dazed as I was I pulled myself together sufficiently to hand in Rs. 100 to the clerk who came, for the millionaire collector's name, and then I set to pondering on the problem what to do next. Articles one after another were put up for auction and sold but I saw none of them. I was running over the names of uncles and aunts from whom I might possibly borrow, but who would not lend, or, speculating on the possibility of confessing my poverty to one of the clerks and asking if the picture could not be put up again. Perhaps that was the best way out—pay the fine and have it reaucted and yet how could I do it after all the bids I had made? The staff looked so unsympathetic that I feared to disclose my secret.

Meanwhile the sale came to an end and I stood on the outskirts of a little knot of buyers round the desk who were paying for the articles they had purchased and giving instructions regarding their delivery. Naturally I preferred to be the last. It was then that I was joined by my friend, but only for a moment, for, as soon as he looked at my face he rammed his handkerchief into his mouth and again disappeared. Alone I had to face my plight. I never felt such a fool, or had colder feet in my life. I believe I would have even welcomed a firing party. And then the unexpected happened, and I realised that a career of rectitude sometimes has rewards beyond the mere consciousness of virtue. A voice at my ear suddenly said "Beg Pardon, Sir, but are you the gent that bought the Picture?"

I said "Yes, why?"

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