

PREPARE ENGINES TO RACE TO FIRE

Pennsylvania Has 423 Equipped With Fire-fighting Apparatus.

ITS ALTOONA EQUIPMENT

ROAD HAS A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF MAINS AND APPARATUS OF ITS OWN TO PROTECT ITS LARGE PROPERTY.

Philadelphia, Sept. 4.—To determine the efficiency of its own system of fire protection, the Pennsylvania railroad has undertaken a thorough test of its fire fighting facilities in Altoona, where there has just been finished a new high-pressure water system, for fire protection purposes only, and without connecting with any other distribution pipes or conflagration in Altoona would seriously interfere with the operation of the entire Pennsylvania system, because Altoona is the mechanical center of it. The insurable value of the machine and car shops at Altoona, with the equipment in adjacent yards, is more than \$5,000,000, not to speak of the large Juniata shops, where the company builds many of its locomotives.

Gridironing Machines. Gridironing the machine and car shops at Altoona are more than seven miles of large water mains, with seventy-two and three-way hydrants, supplying 184 streams of water. In addition to two fire engine companies, chemical extinguishers are distributed through the shops, while sand and water pumps, hose racks, chemical engines, water casks and ladders, add to the equipment with which these railroad fire fighters are armed. Some 31,000 feet of cotton rubber-lined hose are available for utilizing the water from the hydrants, which, owing to the unique arrangement of the mains and valves, cannot be shut off from their water supply by breaks in the pipe lines.

To guard against breakages in the mains, clogs from mud, and similar troubles experienced so often by municipal fire departments, the company has, in its system of fire protection, adopted the method of laying parallel mains under its shops and equipment yards, so that by the use of gate valves any part of a broken main can be cut off to itself and in no way interfere with the flow of water to the different hydrants.

On account of the congested areas in the machine shops the railroad has found it necessary to erect four-story buildings. These structures are more than 100 feet high and an important part of the test was to determine if the recently installed high-pressure system would throw a stream of water on the top of these buildings. By the use of what is known as a "deluge set," which is nothing more than two lines of hose slamed at one nozzle, a two-inch stream of water of 400 gallons a minute was thrown on the top of the machine shops.

A Further Feature. A further feature of the Altoona fire system is that by means of a reservoir in the Pottsgrove Hills, back of Altoona, there have been dammed some 180,000,000 gallons of water, which, even in event of a severe drought, would be available for fire-fighting purposes. The high elevation of the reservoir gives to the system a static pressure which cannot be interrupted by a breakdown of a pumping station or fire engine.

In the same way as at Altoona the Pennsylvania has established its fire protection at every large and small terminal and station. At the more important points, such as New York, Jersey City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore, systems proportionately as elaborate have been installed to protect the property of the company. At the test in Altoona, a number of suppositions fires were started in different parts of the railroad shops, and firemen, with their helpers, responded to fight imaginary flames. Some thirty-two regular firemen and a score or more of the auxiliary force directed the streams of water, while inspectors checked up the results.

To make the test thorough, seventeen streams were brought into service. At intervals of two minutes

streams were turned on, and after all of them were throwing water on the buildings, readings were taken of the pressures. The test continued for one hour and a half, during which time some 185,000 gallons of water were used.

Locomotives as Fighters.

Not only have these precautions been taken at Altoona, but in the realization that fires are likely at any time to occur at places which cannot be reached by ordinary extinguishing apparatus, the Pennsylvania has equipped 423 locomotives with fire fighting apparatus. These locomotives are used continually in yard service at various points on the company's lines, and are available at all hours of the day and night. One given signal, their crews, all of which have been trained in fire fighting, hurry their engines to the scene of the fire, and all tracks are cleared that no time be lost en route. So successful has this method of protecting property at out of the way places proved, that an additional number of yard engines are being similarly equipped.

Exactly 1,397 fires occurred in 1938 on Pennsylvania railroad property valued at more than \$260,000,000. It was damaged only to the extent of \$346,149. Of these fires, 274 were extinguished by the railroad's employees with the company's own apparatus with slight loss. The reduction of its fire loss to such a minimum means that the railroad has had to make it practically impossible for a conflagration to start in its yards and terminals. It has been working to this end for thirty odd years.

THE THEATER

"Heiress of the Lindens." The Labor Day attraction at the Gennett this year is "The Heiress of the Lindens," which is announced by Elwyn Eaton who is making the production as an English musical drama. A special popular priced matinee will be given for children.

"The Man of the Hour." One of the leading attractions that will be offered to the patrons of the Gennett theater during the present dramatic season is George Broadhurst's great American play, "The Man of the Hour," and presented by Managers Wm. A. Brady and Jos. R. Grismer's special company of players. It is one of the biggest hits in the history of the stage and goes merrily on its way sweeping everything before it. An entirely new scenic equipment is carried this season.

Nellie McHenry, who, in her line of work is one of the best known actresses of today will be seen at the Gennett theater Friday, September 10 in a big revival of that ever-popular western drama, "M'Liss." In adapting the play from the novel, the dramatist has been very happy in retaining the delightful atmosphere which the author of the story surrounded his characters. The situations and the climaxes are most dramatic, and yet the seriousness of the play is relieved by an abundance of bright comedy. The central figure of the play, "M'Liss," is a bit of femininity which one does not find nowadays. She is a woman, every inch of her, but all of her young life having been spent with a lot of rough miners, and having in her charge a father who is almost always in his cups, she has seen the seamy side of life before tasting its joys. Yet with it all, she is most lovable and adored by all around her. Miss McHenry has several new songs and Manager Wuerz has placed around her as strong an acting company as money could procure. In fact the revival of "M'Liss" will stand re-eminent as one of the best attractions on the road this season.

The Monkey Who Refused the Home of a Millionaire. Can you believe it? And they say monkeys are without intelligence. This statement, however, has been indignantly denied by a young Harvard graduate who, the major part of last summer, experimented with several "Simians" at the New York Zoo. To refute the charge, when he placed fruit in a small cage which was locked, he left the key in the lock for Mr. Monk to open himself, which he did.

But think of a monkey who would prefer to travel with a theatrical troupe than to bask in society's whims at Newport, Palm Beach and other social centers. But this is just what "Pete," the trained monkey of "The Red Mill," did when the company appeared in Newport recently.

"Pete" comes on in the Italian organ grinder's scene. His cue is when the orchestra strikes up "Goo-ga-Bye, John," and the moment he hears it he jumps from the entrance to the center of the stage and is soon joined by Swor and Woods, who are made up as Italian street musicians. Soon as "Pete" gives the audience a good look to see if the dramatic critics are in front he commences his capers as only a well educated actor-monkey can caper.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt and party occupied a box and "Pete" appealed to Mrs. Vanderbilt so persistently that she requested her husband to seek the manager and learn if he could not be bought. As the curtain fell upon the first act, Mr. Vanderbilt was introduced to Mr. Emory, the manager of the company and got down to business at once.

"My wife would dearly love to have that monkey, Mr. Emory, and has asked me to buy him. I don't know what monkeys are worth or cost, but I will give you \$250 for him."

Mr. Emory explained that the monkey was not worth any such price, but in this particular case was worth much more to the Martin & Emery Co. as he was acclimated and thoroughly broken, but he would take him back on the stage and introduce him to "Pete" and see what he thought about it.

They found "Pete" tucked away in his little box for the night, but at Mr. Emory's call he jumped out and onto his lap. "Pete" was introduced to Mr. Vanderbilt and then Mr. Em-

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A TRIPLE WEDDING

Three Girls on Liner Couldn't Land Unless They Were Married.

SWEETHEARTS IN WAITING

Philadelphia, Sept. 4.—Three Italian maids, passengers on the Italia liner Verona, were married in the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, at Eighth and Christian streets yesterday, in a triple wedding, at which they served as bridesmaids and matrons of honor in turn.

The wedding took place so soon after their arrival in the country because of the United States immigration laws. When the steerage passengers were being examined by the authorities yesterday the officials learned from 19-year-old Santa Ruggieri, of Naples, that she had come to this country expecting to be married to Angelo Sessalo, of 134 West Cambria street.

Similar information was received from Dominica Serranova, who came from the northern part of Italy, whose affianced was Giuseppe Corofolo of 830 Montrose street. Further inquiry developed that Restitua Giacomini, from the southern part of Italy, expected to marry Antonio Megliacci, of 909 South Eighth street.

Assistant Immigrant Commissioner Hughes told the three that the laws of this country require that young women unaccompanied by their families are not permitted to enter, unless they are married. There was only one way out of the dilemma for them, he said. Either they must be married at once or they would have to go back to Italy.

Tears which had become to come when the commissioners began to talk gave way to blushes. The anxious sweethearts were hunted up. They were all waiting and willing. The licenses were sent for, and then the bridal pairs, accompanied by immigrant station officials went to the church. The Rev. Father Angelo Caruso did the rest.

Eating Too Much. The Lancet, the great English medical paper, says that Englishmen and Americans eat too much. It especially advises people of middle age and older to practice self-restraint in the matter of food. "As the fire of life burns less fiercely and the output of energy is smaller," says the writer, "so the fuel system may not be clogged with ashes and half burnt cinders, whereby the activity of the whole machine is from time to time impaired and may even be prematurely arrested."

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