

NOTES OF THE RAILWAYS

Frisco System's Plan to Provide Homes For Its Employees.

ROCK ISLAND'S NEW EQUIPMENT.

Leave Order Placed For Freight and Passenger Cars, Also Locomotives.
Tidy Sam Netted by Santa Fe Ready Sale of Cheating Conductor Task For Car Painters.

Adopting a French plan for amalgamating the interests of the corporation and its employees, B. F. Youkum, chairman of the executive committee of the Frisco system, has decided that a homestead will be provided for every employee of the system, from vice-president down to the section hand, says the Chicago Tribune. By this method Mr. Youkum hopes to establish an "entirely closed" among the employees, complete insulation with the corporate interests, and on any other road in America, one of the things which it is expected to accomplish is the elimination of strike.

A careful survey of the situation in France was made by Mr. Youkum, and he studied the plans which he found to be working satisfactorily on several of the roads in that country. So decided he with what he could find, he decided to introduce the same plan in the United States, and the first experiments are to be made on the Texas line. It is declared that already a majority of them have signified their intention of taking advantage of the plan.

The idea is to sell to every employee a parcel of five or ten acres of land tributary to the railroad, supplied with water and at a fair valuation, to be paid for in ten years, deferred payments bearing a low rate of interest. One of the provisions in the contract is that, in case an employee who has accepted his offer of this privilege dies or is killed in an accident while in the service of the company, the land is to be bequeathed in fee to his wife or family without further obligation on the part.

It is provided further that should an employee discontinue his service with the company from any cause whatever before the completion of his contract all the money paid in by him will be returned, together with interest at the rate per annum that has been charged against him.

The Rock Island system has placed a large order for new equipment, says the Kansas City Times. It includes twenty new pattern passenger cars from the Chicago car works. Ten of them will be seventy foot chaises, furnished with sixteen-foot twin reclining chairs and both plush gas and electric lighting fixtures and electric fans for ventilation and cooling. The ten cars are seventy-foot vestibuled coaches, each with a seating capacity of eighty. The cars will have an interior finish of Mahogany, with green or maroon upholstering.

There is also an order for 400 freight cars of various kinds for the Rock Island and also fifty locomotives. In addition to the sixty-five locomotives of various types, the latter includes twenty Pacific type passenger engines and ten Atlantic type. A large part of the new passenger equipment will probably be put in service on the through trains from Chicago and St. Louis to Colorado and the Panhandle.

The annual report of the Santa Fe system for last year brings out the fact that the company is a large dealer in chewing gum, says a Tokosa (Kans) special dispatch to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Some interesting statistics have been compiled showing how trifling articles come up in a year on the Santa Fe system. In the 400 stations between Chicago and the Pacific coast are shot machines containing gum. Into these machines last year were dropped 1,560,000 pennies for gum, the sum aggregating \$17,200.

The pens used by officials and employees of the Santa Fe system last year weighed 2,000 pounds. To keep the pens and others clean 20,000 brooms were used. The lead pencils used, if placed end to end, would make a line over 325 miles long.

From what is known as the "scrap heap" the company realized last year \$220,000. This included almost everything from a nail to a worn-out locomotive. One stock was realized from the sale of waste paper alone.

Plans have been prepared for the renumbering of all freight cars on the Pennsylvania system, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. The new numbers will range from 1 to 10,000,000, the series from 1 to 10,000 being assigned to the line east of Leavenworth, from 10,000 to 20,000 to the line west of Pittsburgh. On the lines west the hot cars will range from \$50,000 to \$60,000, refrigerator from \$60,000 to \$25,000, the stock from \$25,000 to \$75,000, the gondolas from \$75,000 to \$80,000, the coke from \$80,000 to \$95,000, the flat from \$25,000 to \$55,000, the cabin from \$50,000 to \$65,000, and the miscellaneous cars from \$60,000 to \$65,000.

The Hocking Valley railroad recently placed in position a new bridge a few miles south of Upper Sandusky, O., which will be followed by others of the same kind, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. Four feet below the main part of the structure a layer of heavy steel plates are being rung along the bridge. On this steel plate running horizontally is placed and on top of this steel rails. This arrangement is said, does away with the heavy roar caused by trains running over bridges.

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Hunting With Wolves.

E. R. Woodward of Rhinelander, Wis., is engaged in hunting of wolves which are being used by lumbermen as the brothers of the woods. The animals are trained to trail any wild animal on which they are placed, says a Rhinelander dispatch. A Milwaukee hunter recently employed the trained animals to hunt a bear for three days and brought back seventeen deer, nine otters and three bears. The owner and a large and unusually tame animal and easily controls his pack while in field. The owner says he does not feed them for two days before sending them out, which makes them eager and swift on the trail.

The flowers are even used to capture other wolves, which are killed and scalped for the skin bounty.

Flowers in Fancy Colors and Shapes. The application of colors other than those natural to the flowers is very much resorted to this season, says the Millinery Trade Review. Lilacs are especially fashionable, plain or glazed. Another flower which is used itself for such treatment is the tea rose. Forget-me-not is to be had in every shade of blue as well as its own light blue and also in vivid green. These and other flowers are made good use of, but

roses continue to hold the proud position of prime favorite. There is a tendency only to produce them in all colors, but also a variety of strange shapes and sizes. Some blown roses the petals of which lie almost flat. Some of these have the heart quite on one side instead of in the center.

Closing of Saloons to Help Farmers. Woodland, Calif., was a pretty dry town the other Sunday night. The saloon keepers of their number had closed their respective places of business at 10 o'clock that evening and the balances of the saloons were left, says a Woodland correspondent of the Sacramento Bee. The saloon men say they are doing this at the instigation of the Farmers, who from time to time have complained that they cannot get them to work Monday evenings on account of the saloons. By closing at 6 o'clock, it is maintained, the working men get a chance to sober up and get home. The early closing movement will probably be continued throughout the summer.

WORK ON PANAMA CANAL

Lafayette Young Tells What Has Been Done There.

PROBLEM OF LABOR THE GREATEST

Des Moines Newspaper Publisher Who Visited the Isthmus Says Average Worker Is Not Worth Five Cents—Declares Canal Will Cost Many Millions in Excess of All Expenses—Praises Engineer Wallace.

Lafayette Young, publisher of the Des Moines Capital, recently arrived at Chicago from Panama, where he spent three weeks on the isthmus. In an interview with a representative of the Chicago Post Mr. Young said:

"The average worker must have payed at least \$100 a month in the isthmus to meet the cost of living. The thing that surprised me the most was that the workers were not paid for the work and the amount of good work that has been performed on the canal by the French company. Uncle Sam got a good bargain for his \$400,000 a day labor force in the tea mill and strip called the canal zone. While the canal zone the United States would have been subjected to everlasting annoyances from the revolutions so common in the South and Central American states."

"The Americans are gradually securing an organization for the canal work. Chief Engineer Wallace has numerous corps of engineers making surveys after which it is expected that Congress will appropriate \$100,000,000 for the work.

"A considerable number of Amer-

icans continue to visit the isthmus. Some are looking for locations and some are investing capital. Tides to land are hard to secure and are constantly changing. The soil of the isthmus is as rich as on an orchard and women fully productive. There is no such good southern cattle which were sleek and in good order. The sanitary department is cleaning up Panama, and the system of drainage and water supply will soon be completed. Certainly a great deal has been done in all departments of labor starting the canal work."

The sanitary department is making its fight against the mosquito, which is carried with all the transmission of yellow fever.

"The canal organization is in somewhat jumbled shape because so many employees become discouraged and go home. There will be a long weeding out process before heads of department and bureaus will be permanent. Chief Engineer Wallace is one reliable robotics worker. No industry among the Hopetones could be more devoted to him, and the public will be fortunate if disease shall spurn him to complete his work. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace live in the building which the French had purchased in the heart of Panama for their canal division. The house has been thoroughly and thoroughly cleaned and furniture have been supplied. Battlin has not been numerous or popular in Panama. Mr. Wallace built a shed on the roof of his house to catch the breezes and some American newspaper correspondents gave out the impression that the shed was built for gun and the temperature on the roof is 5 degrees higher than in the house, which alone justifies the expenditure.

"The canal will cost many millions in excess of all estimates, and unless the people are prepared to count out the money cheerfully they had better stop now. But it will be a great civilization. It will make the little republic of Panama the only stable government in South and Central America and will help greatly John E. Wallace and his wife to realize their dream of a life to reunite the two oceans after 400 years of separation."

Cat Glass Case.
Plate chests are overcrowded just now, for the crystal craze has come upon us, and the desire is that everything from dishes to tables, must be in glass, says the New York Press. The crystal tables offer unlimited opportunities for artistic effects, for they are lighted from beneath, and the color may be switched on to harmonize with any manner of decoration. Sometimes the lights are changed to match the color of the room. But a more ingenious plan is that of having painted gauge sheets fastened to rollers beneath the table, which are changed frequently as the courses are served. For instance, at the fish course the table sometimes takes the appearance of a miniature lake, with minnows and goldfish swimming about. With the game bird scene may be unrolled, and as one through the dinner. There should be no dearth of conversation at these pictorial repasts, and the glass diners no longer will have to shuffle for a topic of conversation.

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