



Official Proceedings for the Club Year Volume 17

Western Railway Club



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1905 Excerpt: ... di3 not expect to have the courtesy of the floor extended to me here this evening, and I do not know that I can say anything very interesting to the gentlemen present. I wish to say, however, that I have listened to Mr. Pratts paper with a great deal of interest, and the author is deserving of a great deal of credit. The question of selecting material for locomotive firemen and engineers has not been given the attention that it should have by the railway companies in the past neither is it receiving the attention it should at present. The methods employed are not the correct lines to work on except in but very few instances. If my observation has given me proper material from which to reach conclusions, it is too often the case, in my opinion, that the enginemen are employed and practically turned loose. The fireman serves his apprenticeship as a fireman, becomes an engineer he is the future educator of other engineers, as we all know that the fireman of to-day will be the engineer of to-morrow. Therefore I believe I am correct in my conclusion that engineers should be trained more than they are in the matter of educating the firemen. The fireman is constantly under the eye and supervision of the engineer, and no matter what arbitrary rules may be made, or well formulated, systematic plans of selecting material may be adopted, unless there is a constant and proper influence surrounding that material, it will get into improper channels, and we will have ourselves confronted with the fact that material considered good in its original selection has been spoiled in the making. Railway companies are organized for the purpose of bringing returns to the shareholders. In other words, they have a commodity for sale that is, transportation. It is up to the opera...

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