

stability of parts which entirely prevent, or at least minimize, independent movements. The roadbed is drained to increase the stability of the tie embedment and prevents the churning movements of the ties in their beds. Ballast is used to facilitate such drainage and provide a more stable support for the tie.

The failure to provide accurate gage, correct line or true surface must result in transverse movements and impacts, which will still further derange the condition and distort the materials in the track. It is not the weight of the train which primarily injures the track, but the damage is done by heavy weights moving at high speeds striking irregularities and making the track worse and worse. The advantage of heavy rails is not so much to secure additional wear and life, but that in affording a stiffer beam, there is less flexure of the rail, the conditions of the line, surface and gage are better preserved and much labor is saved.

The restriction of independent movements, so far as labor will accomplish this result, should be the constant aim of track men. The hook-head spike in common use, so far as holding the rail securely down to the tie is concerned, is a very imperfect fastening and there is always more or less vertical play of the rail between the spikes and the tie, causing the rails to cut down into the tie. It is at this point that tie plates are introduced to prevent the wear of the tie and to a certain extent restrict the movements of the rail.

It is a mistake to apply the word "elastic" to track, as only such materials are selected as are not elastic and the object is to absorb and not amplify original movements. The important point in track construction and maintenance is to reduce all independent movements to a minimum. It is necessary to work to exact gage, to perfect level and true line, with correct spiking, thorough tamping, good drainage and other details essential to their preservation, and the refinements of track will surely follow such efforts.

Mr. Reece's discussion of the engineering side of the tie plate is interesting and valuable, but of that we shall make no abstract here. The readers who want it should address the Q & C Company.

Mr. Wallace, Mr. Harahan and others took part in the discussion, which was a novel and instructive feature of an inspection trip.

Track Elevation in Chicago.

Quite the largest work so far undertaken in track elevation about Chicago has been the raising of the joint tracks of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railways. Through the courtesy of Mr. L. H. Clark, Engineer of track elevation for both of the above-mentioned roads, we are enabled to describe this work, and give some of the important details of construction. This we do in continuation of several articles which appeared on this subject in the *Railroad Gazette*, in 1894, the most important of which was a description of the Archer avenue subway, which was given on page 718, in the issue of Oct. 19 of that year.

An ordinance passed the Chicago City Council, July 9, 1894, providing for the elevation of these tracks, the work to be done jointly by the two roads, starting at a point on the south side of the right of way of the St. Charles Air Line, near Sixteenth street, and extending south to a point beyond Sixty-first street, where the roads diverge. From the point of divergence the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern must continue the elevation of its tracks beyond the crossing of State street; while the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific must extend its work, meeting the old grade at Seventy-second street. South of Sixty-first street each road is obliged to conduct the work of elevating tracks independently. The ordinance further provides for the construction of subways at the various intersecting streets.

By the terms of the ordinance, all expense must be borne by the railroad companies except claims for damages caused by changing the grade of streets or alleys, which are to be paid by the city. In the case of non-performance of the terms of the ordinance, the railroad companies are required to pay the city \$50,000, and a payment of \$100,000 is also required as a contribution to the city toward liabilities for land or business damages which may be incurred by reason of the work. The payment of this amount releases the railroad companies from all claims for damages, excepting from negligence on the part of the companies' employees. The time set for the completion of the work is Aug. 1, 1899. In return for the changes made by the railroad companies, the city releases them from all regulations governing speed at crossings as soon as trains are run on the elevated tracks.

Fig. 1 is a profile and plan of the tracks between the crossing of the St. Charles Air Line, at Sixteenth street and Sixty-third street. The plan shown provides for the raising of six miles of roadbed, carrying in most cases four or six tracks, while at Forty-third and Fifty-first streets, yards 15 and 12 tracks wide are raised.

Nothing has been done north of the St. Charles Air Line crossing, as the plans for raising the tracks at Sixteenth street have not yet been definitely settled, the two roads in question being here crossed by the Chicago & Western Indiana, and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, as well as by the St. Charles Air Line.

In 1894, the work was begun and the tracks were elevated as far south as Twenty-third street, which included the building of three subways. In 1895, the work was continued as far as Thirty-eighth street, 12 subways being built. During the present year the tracks from Forty-seventh to Fifty-ninth street were raised to the new grade and seven subways built. This leaves a small section unfinished between Thirty-eighth and Forty-seventh streets, as no agreement has been reached between the city and the Union Stock Yards Railway which crosses the work at Fortieth street. There also

Name of street.	Number of tracks.	Width of subway between walls.		Clearance.		Depression of subway.		Elevation of tracks.	
		Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.		
*Archeravenue.....	5	80	12	4					
*23d street.....	4	65	13.5	5				9.5	
23d street.....	5	65	12	4.4				8.6	
24th street.....	5	66	12	4.6				8.4	
25th street.....	5	66	12	4.3				8.7	
*26th street.....	4	66	13.5	5.8				8.9	
27th street.....	4	60	13	3.7				9.3	
28th street.....	4	66	12	2.7				10.3	
30th street.....	4	66	12	1.5				11.8	
31st street.....	4	65	13.5	4.6				12.0	
32d street.....	4	65	12	3.4				10.8	
33d street.....	4	66	12	2.6				10.7	
*35th street.....	4	65	13.5	3.0				11.5	
37th street.....	4	65	12.0	2.5				10.7	
38th street.....	4	66	12.0	2.4				9.8	
*39th street.....	4	66	13.5	3.4				11.1	
*Root street.....	12	65	13.5	3.2				9.6	
43d street.....	15	65	12	5.0				8.0	
44th street.....	6	66	12	4.2				8.9	
45th street.....	6	65	12	3.9				9.1	
45th court.....	6	65	12	3.2				10.1	
*47th street.....	7	66	13.5	4.3				10.3	
51st street.....	12	66	12	3.0				10.1	
53d street.....	6	65	12	3.7				10.2	
55th street (Garfield Boulevard).....	6	200	13.5	3.7				10.9	
57th street.....	6	66	12	1.1				12.0	
58th street.....	6	66	12	1.3				11.8	
*59th street.....	6	66	12	2.3				10.0	
60th street.....	6	66	12	2.5				10.5	
*61st street.....	6	65	13.5	4.9				9.7	
*163d street.....	6	60	13.5	4.5				10.1	
*State street.....	6	60	13.5	5.3				9.3	
*Wentworth avenue and 65th street.....	3	63	13.5						
66th street.....	3	66	12						
67th street.....	3	66	12						
Normal Parkway.....	3	73	12						
*69th street.....	3	65	13.5						

*Electric line crosses here.
†North approach—C. R. I. & P. and P. F. W. & C. South approach—L. S. & M. S.

remains about half a mile of joint tracks between Fifty-ninth and Sixty-first streets, and short sections beyond Sixty-first street, which will be carried on independently. It is the plan to complete all the work in 1897 and '98.

As will be seen from Fig. 1, the new grade is reached at Archer avenue, from which point south the new track is practically level, the maximum gage being 0.3 per cent. for a distance of about 400 feet. At all other points, the grades range from 0.3 per cent. to a true level

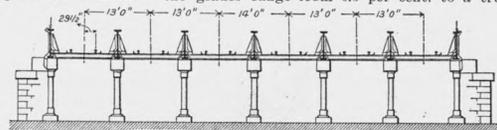


Fig. 3.—Section of Bridge at Garfield Boulevard.

Excepting through the yards shown, the right-of-way is uniformly 100 ft., so that where six tracks occur, retaining walls are necessary, and walls have also been built at a number of points where four tracks were raised.

The table shows the various intersecting streets at which subways are built, the number of tracks carried over each subway, width of subways between walls, clearance or headroom, depression of subways and elevation of tracks. It will be seen that to carry out the whole plan will require the construction of 37 subways to comply with the terms of the ordinance, and at 14 of these subways electric street-railway lines cross.

The new roadbed is made of white sand to within eight in. of the surface, coarse gravel being used for the remaining distance. The railroad companies build the embankments and the masonry work on the abutments of the bridges. Limestone is used for abutments and retaining walls. The iron bridges are furnished by the American Bridge Company, which also does the work of erecting and the field riveting. The retaining walls are built, and the paving at the subways is done, by contract, by Kimball, Cobb & Co., of Chicago.

The tracks are brought up gradually on either side of a street crossing. Two tracks at least are left open for traffic, the others being blocked and the masonry foundations put in and abutments built. Timber false work is erected upon which the girders are unloaded. These are then lined up carefully and the floor beams put in at four points to hold the girders in place, after which the complete floor is put in, the riveting done and rails laid. By the time the tracks are laid on the bridge the embankments on each side have been brought up and trains are then run over the elevated track, while the remaining tracks are brought up to grade. While the work on the bridge is going on, the excavation is made for the subway, so that by the time the superstructure is finished the subway is paved and completed.

The subways are built with a clear headroom of not less than 12 ft. over the roadway, and 7½ ft. over the sidewalks. The roadways are paved with a single

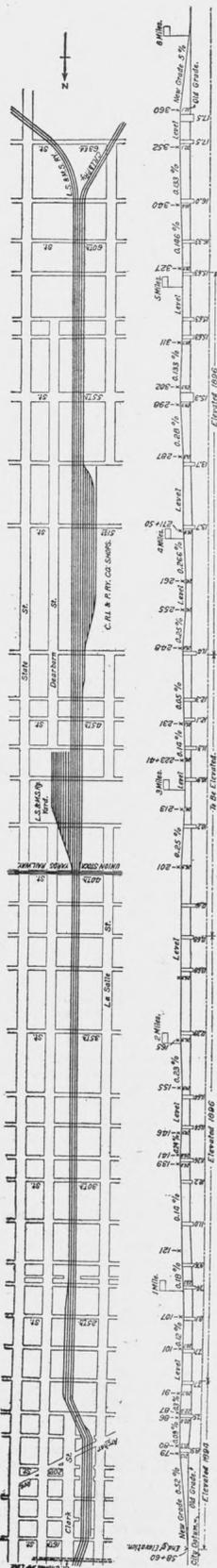


Fig. 1.—General Plan and Profile of the Track Elevation of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, in Chicago.

