

Improved Market Conditions

By providing an efficient and rapid service, at reasonable rates, the radial electric railway effects an improvement in market conditions, and facilitates the handling of food stuffs, by expediting transfer from producer to consumer. Frequent express service, at freight rates, with convenient stops, enables merchants to supply their customers in suburban and rural districts, promptly, with fresh material and with a corresponding reduction in dead stock carried.

The Chicago Municipal Markets Commission, reporting in 1914, states that "trolley freight service with its cheap rates and practically house to house collection of farm products should be of enduring interest to the city, consumer and to the producer."

General merchants from thirty-nine towns in Eastern United States, reporting to the Census Bureau in 1907, were unanimous in stating that the net result of their business has been increased. Those towns adjacent to large cities such as Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit, found that whatever business was lost to those cities, was more than made up by the gain to smaller places. In practically every case, increased business was done with the farmers, in spite of competition of adjacent large cities, and the general opinion of the merchants is well summed up in one expression, "Want all Electric Railways we can get." Most of the merchants were of the opinion that electric lines as facilities, were of increased benefit to them.

As an evidence of what the radial electric line has done for central municipalities, the following comments regarding Indianapolis, by the St. Louis Republic, are quoted, viz.:—

"The growth of Indianapolis increased 38 per cent. and that of St. Louis by 19 per cent. during the last census decade. A number of railroad systems are managed from St. Louis, while not one road of any size is managed from Indianapolis. St. Louis lies just across the Mississippi from the greatest deposit of good steam coal adjacent to any American city; Indianapolis gets its coal from considerable distances. St. Louis has a river channel connecting it with the sea; Indianapolis has no navigable water. St. Louis is located on rolling hills of great scenic beauty, giving ideal drainage; Indianapolis is flat. St. Louis is far from any other large city; Indianapolis has achieved its remarkable growth within 183 miles of Chicago. St. Louis has two important universities; Indianapolis has none. St. Louis is a wealthy city; Indianapolis has almost no large fortunes. St. Louis is the world's centre in a number of lines of manufacture; Indianapolis has many small, prosperous shops, but few large ones. Fast interurban trolley lines have made it easy for the people of a circle of 250 miles in diameter to visit Indian-