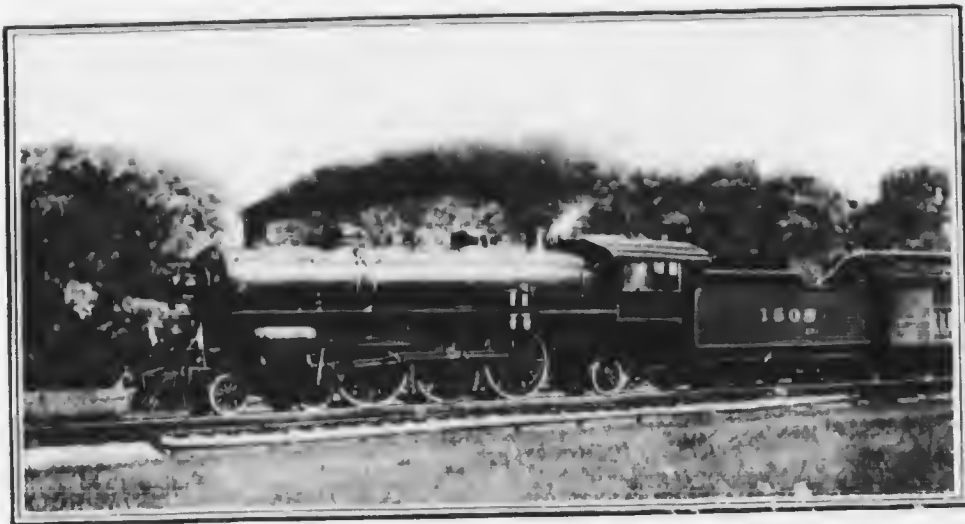




A CHARACTERISTIC "PACIFIC" 4-6-2 TYPE OF LOCOMOTIVE.

## An Experimental Locomotive

IN BUILDING THEIR 50,000TH ENGINE THE AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY EVOLVED AN INTERESTING DESIGN OF THE "PACIFIC" TYPE



THE builder of the locomotive, in meeting the requirements of a railway, is compelled to submit to the rigid specifications laid down by his client. The result is that the engine is not always so efficient as it might be, as the personal question, as represented by the engineer or manager of the railway, enters into the issue. To prove this point, and just to ascertain what could be done if the firm's engineers were given a free hand, the American Locomotive Company, which is an amalgamation of a number of locomotive builders, decided, on the occasion of the construction of its 50,000th engine, to carry out the work upon its own initiative. The engine was admitted to be an experimental engine, designed and constructed at the company's

own expense. Accordingly, being untrammelled by any particular specifications, or the necessity to conform to the existing standards of any railway company, the builders were free to embody in this particular locomotive their ideas concerning the best locomotive engineering practice.

In the execution of this interesting experiment the company did not attempt to evolve anything freakish or unusual. They simply took an existing type of engine and improved it in accordance with their accumulated experience, which is considerable and varied, owing to the diverse and peculiar character of their constructional operations. The type selected was that known as the Pacific 4-6-2 which has become recognised in America as the most efficient standard for all-round express passenger service.