

for by the apprentices obtaining the highest averages in drawing and practical mechanics at their respective stations. These apprentices are given a trip to some point on the system where the final examinations are held, and the one receiving the highest number of points in each subject receives the amount stated. This, in addition to what he has already received at his station, will make a total of \$29.00, \$33.00, or \$58.00 if he has been successful in all subjects.

After the season has closed, the boys at some of the large shops hold what is termed "Apprentice Night." This is the social event of the season. Each one makes a drawing, which is neatly gotten up and inked in. This is placed on exhibition, and the prizes are awarded for each year of apprenticeship. The prizes amount to \$2.50 for the first prize and \$1.50 for the second prize. There are also prizes offered for special colored drawings amounting to \$3.00 for the first, and \$1.50 for the second. This may be competed for by any apprentice, irrespective of his year and considerable interest is manifested by those of artistic ability.

The form of apprenticeship which has been adopted by the Grand Trunk Railway System has been in successful operation for a number of years, and has been the means of supplying the company with skilled mechanics in the most satisfactory manner. All apprentices are indentured to machinist's trade for five years, and to the blacksmith's, boilermaker's or other trades for four years. Five cents per day is deducted from the wages of each apprentice, and the total amount is returned to him at the expiration of his apprenticeship with an addition of \$25.00 as a bonus if services have been entirely satisfactory.

The first requisite in employing an apprentice is to know that he is morally, physically, and mentally capable of filling the requirements of a mechanic. To ascertain this the apprentice is required to make his application direct to the Master Mechanic or the General Foreman, and not be under fifteen and not over eighteen years of age. He is required to undergo a medical examination so as to assure the head of the department that he is healthy and likely to be able to follow up the trade after he has completed the term of apprenticeship. This information being satisfactory, he has to pass an examination in the Master Mechanic's or General Foreman's office. This is usually conducted by the Chief Clerk or some person specially appointed for that purpose, as follows:

To be able to read extracts from instructions from end of employees' train time table, standing thirty inches from same.

Hearing. To be able to hear the ticking of an ordinary open-face watch a distance of four feet.