

It is thus clear that a few curves not sharper than 10 degrees are not objectionable on the very best roads where their use results in large savings. As they are not limiting, the use of one such curve is no justification for a second. The introduction of many of them preventing the employment of high speeds for long distances would certainly be objectionable, but an occasional one where large savings result is justifiable on even the highest class of road.

Wooden trestles to replace heavy rock borrow embankments should be used. Such trestles may be designed to safely carry the heaviest class of equipment. When protected by the installation of the best available water supply they are quite safe, and are good for ten years. Such temporary construction also gives time to ascertain the correct requirements for water ways in new countries where there is frequently a dearth of information as to rainfall, flow of streams, &c., and where unless unduly large water ways are left there is danger of washouts. This danger may be even greater than the danger from fire to wooden trestles. Their use instead of heavy rock borrow embankments is of great importance from an economic point of view. One dollar at 5% compound interest amounts in ten years to \$1.63. If rock borrow costs on the original construction say \$1.75 per cubic yard it will in ten years time have amounted with interest to \$2.85. While, under anything like ordinary conditions train hauled earth embankments on an operated road, made when the trestles require replacement, do not cost over 30 cents per cubic yard, or less than one-ninth of the total cost of a permanent rock embankment made during construction.

Momentum grades are a great source of saving in cost without increasing the operating expenses. The use of momentum in overcoming short stretches steeper than the ordinary ruling grade is almost always justifiable. The exception is where the traffic is so congested that the possibility of a dejay due to the failure of an occasional train to surmount the grade is more important than the undoubted saving in interest charges which they insure. It will probably be many years before conditions prohibiting their use prevail on any portion of our Canadian railways.

The foregoing are a few of the more important considerations which the locating engineer should keep in view. He should always remember that railways are commercial enterprises, are built for profit, and that the investors are looking for and are entitled to satisfactory interest on their money; and so far as the returns on their investments depend on location they will for a given traffic be the greatest when the sum of the operating expenses and fixed charges is the least amount.