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PROPOSED RAIL SPECIFICATIONS.

Publication has just been made in the Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers of the progress report of the Special Committee on Rail Sections, which was presented at the City of Mexico meeting of the society in July. As the report had not been printed for distribution previous to that meeting it was not acted upon, but was made an order for the next annual meeting of the

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society in January, 1908. It is signed by Joseph T. Richards, chairman; Charles W. Buchholz, S. M. Felton, John D. Isaacs, R. Montfort, H. G. Prout, George E. Thackray, E. K. Turner, William R. Webster and Robert W. Hunt, secretary. Some changes have been made in the report of the majority of the committee, submitted at the January, 1906, meeting of the society in New York. That report provided for a discard of 40 in. from the end of the bloom formed from the top of the ingot. It also prescribed the American Society of Civil Engineers' sections, adopted in 1893, a provision omitted in the City of Mexico report. In the specifications for basic open hearth rails the proviso has been added that a full chemical determination shall be furnished for each heat and that two drop tests be made from each. The chemical requirements for Bessemer and open hearth rails, respectively, are the same as provided in the report of last year. It will be noticed that the committee expects to recommend new sections, as the result of the conferences that have been carried on and that are still to take place between the committees of various organizations and representatives of the railroads and the steel manufacturers. The report in part is as follows:—

Your committee respectfully report that they have given the report which they submitted under date of January 17, 1906, and which was referred back to them, careful consideration, and would now report that they are in consultation with committees representing other societies and organizations, as well as other interested parties, on the subject of modified rail sections, with the purpose of preparing and submitting to your society a new series of such sections.

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