



When the Railroad Takes the Automobile For a Ride

THE immense automobile factories in Detroit, Toledo, South Bend, Flint and other cities of the middle west are loading daily thousands of carloads of automobiles to all parts of the world. This, together with the heavy tonnage of material and parts entering into the manufacture of automobiles, is a source of great revenue to the railroads of the country.

The Boston and Maine Railroad maintains an office in Detroit, in charge of Mr. H. S. Garvey, General Agent, for the purpose of soliciting business and rendering assistance to shippers in the movement of traffic to and from this section. When the Boston and Maine Railroad purchased one hundred convertible ballast cars from the American Car and Foundry Company at Detroit, Mr. Munster, Purchasing Agent, naturally was anxious to obtain a load on these cars to avoid paying empty mileage. Mr. Garvey arranged with the Buick Motor Company at Flint, Michigan, to load these cars with Buick automobiles for Boston. They moved in two trains of fifty carloads each, and were consigned to the Noyes-Buick Company, New England Distributors of the Buick products. The trains moved from Flint to Boston in about five days, and the receivers were kept in constant touch with the movement of the cars while traveling across the country through a system of passing reports, enabling the receivers to know exactly at what time the cars were expected to arrive.

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The Boston Terminal is equipped with a derrick propelled by its own power, and especially adapted to unload this class of traffic. Immediately upon arrival of these trains, the cars were placed in such a manner that this derrick could work on an adjoining track and lift the cars off and place them on the ground. It is possible to unload an automobile a minute and the operation is only restricted to the ability of the consignee to remove them. This train was actually unloaded in one day.

In order to maintain a continuous flow of automobiles through the factories, arrangements are made with distributors in various sections of the country to accept their allotment in advance of delivery and to provide for a sufficient quantity of machines at destination for Spring sales, a large number of cars are stored several months in advance, which not only provides for immediate delivery, but furnishes greater efficiency in car supply when spread out over several months of the year.

The Noyes-Buick Company has rented space in the loft at Pier 46, Mystic Wharf, Boston, for the storage of seven or eight hundred automobiles, so that when sales are made immediate delivery can be effected. Most of the automobiles contained in these two train loads were placed in storage at this point for this purpose.