

RAILROADS DISCUSS SAFETY PRECAUTION

Officials Meet in Chicago to Ponder Methods of Cutting Highway Crossing Toll

Possible means of reducing the number of highway grade crossing accidents which in 1926 took 2,492 lives and maimed 6,991 persons, was the principal subject of discussion at the seventh annual meeting of the safety section of the American Railway association at the Palmer House in Chicago, beginning Tuesday, April 19. The meeting was attended by prominent safety men from all the railroads in the United States and Canada, and continued for three days.

In view of the increase of nearly 300 fatalities in 1926 over the year before, due to such accidents together with the constant increase in the number of automobiles in use, this subject is recognized as one of the foremost problems that face the railroads today.

In connection with and in addition to the methods already in force to provide greater safety at grade crossings and in order to create increased interest on the part of both the railroads and the public in the necessity for continued care being exercised at highway grade crossings, the railroads this year will conduct an intensive campaign in an effort to reduce the number of such accidents. Plans were discussed at the Chicago meeting for this campaign.

As part of that campaign, the American Railway association has already inaugurated an essay contest among college, high school and grammar school students with three cash prizes of \$250 each to be awarded the authors of essays containing an outstanding readily available suggestion for preventing such accidents. The essays are limited to 250 words each and must stress the need for greater care in approaching and passing over railroad crossings. The contest will end on June 1. The winning essays will be selected by three persons of national

prominence who will act as judges and who will be announced later.

In 1926 there were 5,921 highway grade crossing accidents compared with 5,479 in 1925. In 1920, 4,226 accidents were reported. While the number of grade crossing accidents has not increased as rapidly since 1920 as the number of automobile accidents on the highways, railroad officials believe a considerable proportion of the accidents at railroad crossings can be prevented if adequate precautions are taken at such places. While the entire elimination of grade crossings would be the ideal solution of the problem, this is both physically and financially impossible, it is said.

Mrs. A. H. Wales of 385 Ridge avenue and her daughter, Mrs. R. S. Cutler of 749 Sherman avenue, Evanston, will entertain at bridge Saturday in honor of another daughter, Mrs. George Bushnell of 827 Forest avenue, Evanston. There will be twenty guests.

Glen and John Bull, sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Bull of 500 Maple avenue, spent their spring vacation with their grandparents in Kokomo, Ind.



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