

Typical automatic signal construction on Illinois Central terminal

# Signaling of I. C. Chicago Terminal

Development of complete new system of signaling in connection with suburban electrification

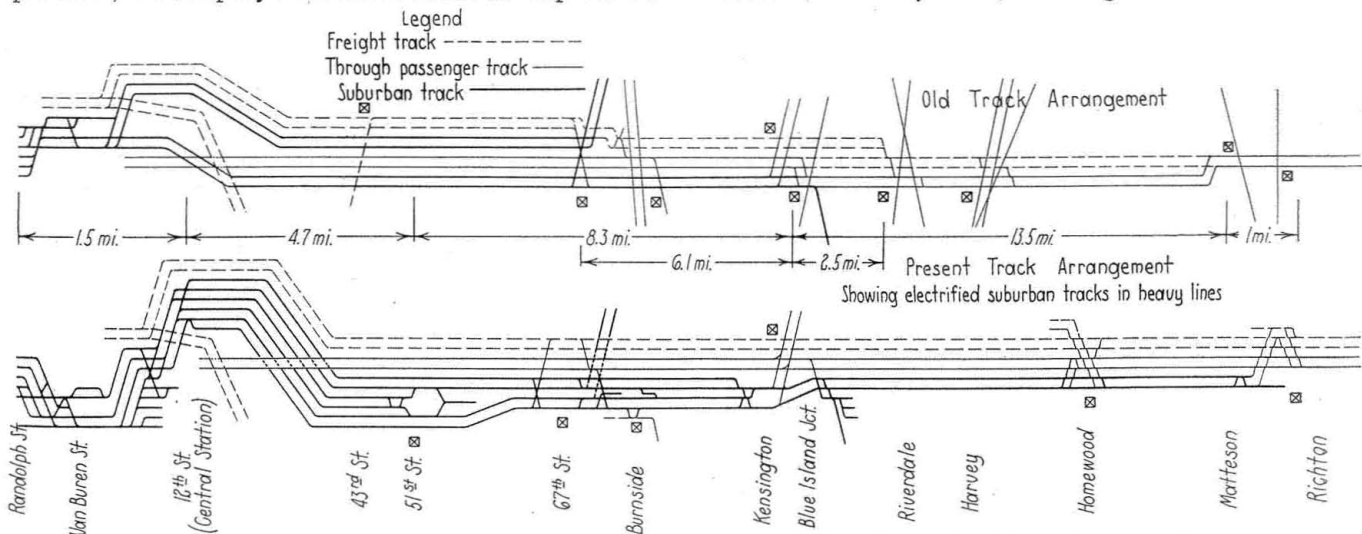
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**W**HEN the Illinois Central was chartered in 1851, Chicago was a rapidly growing city with a population of 30,000. By 1870 its population had increased to around 300,000; by 1890, to more than 1,000,000; by 1910, to more than 2,000,000; today it is more than 3,000,000. The traffic of the Illinois Central in Chicago has increased along with the rapid growth of the city. Because of the rapid development of the communities along its lines and the quality of the service provided, the company's suburban traffic has experienced

Electrification of the terminal was not brought about entirely by economic necessity but as a part of the "Chicago Beautiful" development by the Chicago Plan Commission, which acts under the authority of the city and is entrusted with the development of an orderly city plan.

Under the terms of a city ordinance, dated July 21, 1919, the railroad is scheduled to electrify its suburban service by February, 1927; its freight service north of Roosevelt Road by 1930, its freight service south of



Present track arrangement as compared with previous layout showing railroad crossings eliminated

a remarkable growth in recent years. The average number of passengers carried daily increased from about 44,000 in 1910 and 60,000 in 1920 to nearly 80,000 in 1925. If this rate of increase is continued, it will be but a short time until suburban traffic on the Illinois Central at Chicago will exceed 100,000 passengers daily. The increases in through passenger and freight traffic in and out of Chicago have also been rapid.

Roosevelt Road by 1935; and its through passenger service within the city limits (under certain conditions) by 1940.

## The Terminal Area

The main line of the terminal area extends from Randolph street to Richton, 29 miles, with three main branches on the south. The South Chicago branch is













