



I. C. Installs Automatic Block

Signals at sidings are located properly for conversion to CTC. Special lunar-marker for spring switch protection. Directional overlap controls avoid train stops. Leave-siding dwarfs save train time

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL has installed automatic block signaling on 170 mi. of single track on the Edgewood cut-off between Edgewood, Ill., and Fulton, Ky. This cut-off, completed in 1927, was built to handle through freight trains, because the construction of this new line was less expensive, and would permit more efficient train operation, than would have been accomplished by revising grades and reducing curvature on the original route via Cairo, Ill., which is 16 mi. longer. In spite of the fact that much of this Edgewood cut-off traverses rough country, through the Illinois Ozarks, the line was built "straight and flat," to handle heavy tonnage at fast speeds.

The construction involved deep cuts, high fills and three tunnels, one of which is 1½ mi. long. The grades are low, the maximum being 0.16 per cent. For the most part the line is straight with one section of tan-

gent track 63 mi. long. The maximum curvature is ¼ of 1 deg. The principal motive power is derived from mountain-type locomotives with 70-in. drivers which are rated on this district at 9,590 tons. Manifest trains generally consist of about 90 cars, totaling about 5,500 tons.

Passenger trains are not operated on this line except in emergency. The schedules include four manifest dispatch freight trains each way daily on the entire 170 mi. between Edgewood and Fulton. At Chiles Jct. there is a connection with an Illinois Central line that goes east through Paducah and on to coal fields in Kentucky. Traffic to and from the Paducah line adds three more scheduled trains on the 126 mi. of the Edgewood cut-off between Chiles and Edgewood. Extra trains are operated nearly every day, so that in eight days in October an average of 17.5 trains were operated daily on the Fulton-Chiles Jct. section, and 29.3 trains daily on the Metropolis-



