What's the Answer?

Signal Housings

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using housings as compared to cases at locations of intermediate signals, electric locks, etc., in CTC territory?

Use Relay Cases

By R. W. TROTH
General Superintendent
Communications and Signals
St. Louis-San Francisco
Springfield, Mo.

I assume that the term "housings" means concrete or steel relay houses. The only advantage we can see in the use of such housings at the locations specified, is that they provide a place for the maintainer to work during inclement weather. Where the additional space provided by housings is not required, we do not feel that the higher cost of such housings installed in place is justified. With very few exceptions, we use relay cases at such locations.

Approach Lighting

What are the advantages of continuously lighted signals in CTC or automatic block territory compared with approach lighted signals?

Approach Lighting Is Standard

By C. E. ANDERSON
Office Engineer
Great Northern
St. Paul, Minn.

The Great Northern, for many years, had standardized on approach lighting, using track relays or series track relays on the approach track circuit to the signal. These circuits were normally 2,500 to 3,500 ft in length. It was previously considered very important not to light a signal in advance of another signal.

The sudden lighting of a signal in advance of a train is very effective and attracts attention.

Economy of current consumption and longer lamp life were accomplished by approach lighting. This was especially important when primary battery was used as a power source and is still a consideration with low capacity power supply lines.

Some of the advantages of effect and economy of approach lighting have been lost with the advent of higher speeds and subsequently longer approach lighting, which strings several lighted signals in advance of a train in APB systems by using the opposing HD relays to light the signals. This is presently the practice of our railroad, with a few exceptions.

The advantages of the continuously burning light are that it affords some motor car protection and gives a continuous uniformity of indication.

Tarnish Removal

How can corrosion and tarnish be removed from brass and other metal parts of signaling and communications equipment?

Remove With Solvent

By J. I. KIRSCH
System Engineer—
Communications and Signals
Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

The practice we have been following is to remove as much of the coating as possible with a solvent, such as turpentine. This is followed by wire brushing and buffing with a buffing wheel. Where parts were originally plated, we complete the job by plating where this is considered necessary.

Stringing Line Wire

What procedure or method do you use in stringing new line wire (signal or communications) on pole lines located on steep hillsides? Please describe fully, with sketches or photos if desired.

May Have to Bury It

By H. B. GARRETT
Signal Engineer
Southern Pacific
San Francisco, Calif.

At the time we were considering the installation of CTC between Crescent Lake and Eugene, Ore., one of the problems to be considered was what type of pole line construction should be employed in the territory subject to heavy snowfall, slides and forest fires. Any one of these conditions might cause considerable damage to the pole line structure and interrupt