

# Signal Construction Steady in 1959

MODERATE IS THE WORD for signal construction during 1959, but there were gains in two major areas: centralized traffic control and highway crossing protection. Information compiled this year is more detailed than previously, and also includes some information not heretofore obtained. Electric locks, for example are included, and spring switches in CTC territory with and without facing point locks. This latter fact accounts for the smaller number of spring switches appearing in that table. Not previously included are safety devices such as hot box detectors, wheel detectors, dragging equipment detectors and slide fences. Thus the grand totals for 1959 appear greater than 1958, but for comparable items, the two figures are within 149 of each other.

Over 2,000 road-miles of CTC were installed in 1959, the largest annual mileage ever reported to **Railway Signaling and Communications**. This compares with 1,086 road-miles installed in 1958. A healthy start was made by the Canadian National on its program of equipping mainlines with CTC. CNR installed 700.4 miles, all of it single-track territory. Much of this is modified CTC with a spring switch at one end of a siding and a power switch at the other end. Next to the CNR in size of CTC projects was the Pacific Lines of the SP, which installed 333.4 road-miles. Over 250 miles of this 1959 total are controlled from a pushbutton type of control machine (RS&C, July 1959, p. 17).

Some railroads which have had CTC in service for several years are re-examining their installations to see if improvements should be made to reflect changed operating conditions (CTC planning RS&C, June 1959, p. 24). The L&N, for example, is re-arranging and simplifying the CTC between Nashville, Tenn., and Stevenson, Ala. The first installation was made in 1943 when trains were

## Signal Installations for 1955 through 1959

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
<b>Automatic block signaling</b>					
Signals	363	493	423	864	754
Electric locks	21	--	--	--	--
<b>Automatic train stop</b>					
Rolling stock	174	222	--	--	--
Wayside units	155	--	--	--	--
Rolling stock with cab signals	2	--	--	--	--
<b>Centralized traffic control</b>					
Power switches	536	458	586	819	305
Spring switches with facing point lock	12	--	--	--	--
Spring switches without facing point lock	82	--	--	--	--
Electric locks	405	--	--	--	--
Controlled signals	1,485	1,116	1,454	1,948	885
Automatic signals	986	671	1,030	1,453	483
<b>Classification yards</b>					
Car retarders	48	44	61	69	54
Power switches	164	248	383	254	247
<b>Highway crossing protection</b>					
Crossings with flashing-light signals only	1,012	961	1,175	984	781
Crossings with flashing-light signals and gates	387	419	455	336	289
<b>Interlockings</b>					
Power switches	264	432	585	536	561
Home signals	440	826	1,003	1,036	1,021
Distant signals	142	--	--	--	--
<b>Safety devices</b>					
Dragging equipment detectors	23	--	--	--	--
Hot box detectors	121	--	--	--	--
Wheel detectors	10	--	--	--	--
Feet of slide detector fence	39,125	--	--	--	--
<b>Spring switches</b>					
Spring buffer mechanisms	47	80	127	147	107
Spring switches with facing point locks	17	52	59	41	35
Signals at spring switches	61	129	208	268	183
<b>Grand totals</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>7,549</b>	<b>8,755</b>	<b>5,705</b>
Units not included in other years	879	222			

hailed by steam power. The advent of dieselization brought about fewer and longer trains, hence today the L&N is lengthening some sidings, and removing others not needed. On 24 miles of double-track CTC in Iowa, the Milwaukee Road retired 18 miles of one main track and converted 6 miles into three 2-mile sidings.

While six fewer railroads installed crossing protection equipment in

1959, 75 roads equipped 1,397 highway-railroad grade crossings or 17 more than in 1958. For the fifth straight year a gain was registered for the number of crossings equipped with the joint use of railroad and government funds (federal, state or local municipalities). Television to permit a watchman to view a highway grade crossing just beyond his range of vision was installed by the

D&H at Cohoes, N.Y. (RS&C, Oct. 1959 p. 15).

Although interlocking construction during 1959 fell considerably below 1958, the drop off was not so steep as the table indicates. Some of this construction and rebuilding is hidden in CTC. Conventional practice is to absorb local interlockings into CTC projects. For example, the NYC Syracuse-Buffalo installation, now

nearing completion, will absorb six major interlockings with considerable savings in wages. The City of Philadelphia installed a train identification system in its subway whereby the interlockings are controlled automatically by the trains.

Retarder yard projects fell off from 1958, but should pick up in 1960. The Missouri Pacific has announced plans to construct a new retarder

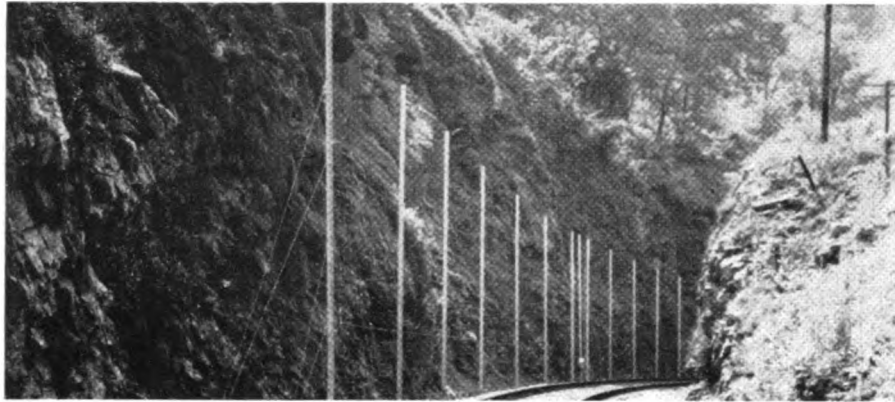
classification yard at North Little Rock, Ark. The New York Central now constructing a similar yard Indianapolis, Ind., and has plans for a yard at Detroit, Mich., and a third yard on the Eastern district. The yards are expected to be started in 1960. Also, the Erie and the Lackawanna are seriously considering construction of a retarder yard at Buffalo, N.Y. During 1959, the RF&P rebuilt the southward hump at Potomac yard, providing semi-automatic retardation and automatic switching. Ten classification tracks were added to the existing yard.

Gains in wayside train stop equipment installations were due to signal construction and modernization programs on the Boston, New York and Philadelphia subways. Lackawanna trains using Erie-DL&W joint trackage between Binghamton and Gibson, N.Y. (about 76 miles) were equipped with intermittent inductive train stop. The DL&W so equipped 93 locomotives in 1959.

The Jersey Central Lines has equipped 81 units of rolling stock including some RDC cars, with train stop equipment capable of being actuated by subway-type mechanical trips. The trips were installed on the Passaic river and Newark bay drawbridges. Recommendations for the trips and train stop equipment were made by the New Jersey Public Utilities Commission following a 1958 accident in which a JCL commuter train ran through the open Newark bay drawbridge, killing 48 persons.

The CRI&P put cab signals on two locomotives that operate between Chicago and Joliet, Ill. This was the only cab signal installation reported except for retarder yard engines.

Safety detectors including the amount of slide fence installed were obtained for the first time. With fewer men along the wayside to watch trains, the importance of these detectors is growing (RS&C, Feb. 1959 p. 28). By installing a slide fence at a rock cut, the P&LE was able to eliminate watchmen's jobs (RS&C, Dec. 1959, p. 19). One railroad is planning to install over 50 hot box detectors on its system. All detector recorders will be monitored at a central location, and train crews will be informed of the exact locations of hot boxes by two-way radio.



Slide fence installations totaled 39,125 ft.

### Classification Yard Projects Installed in 1959

Railroad & Location	Power Switches Installed			Class Tracks	Engines with Cab Signals	Mfr
	Retarders	Inter-locked	Non-Inter-locked			
B&M Mechanicville, N.Y.	2 (replaced)	--	--	--	--	GRS
C&O Presque Isle, Ohio	3	--	9	10	--	US&S
LS&I West Yard	--	--	3	--	--	GRS
MP Kansas City, Mo. East Yd.	13	--	39	40	3	GRS
West Yd.	11	--	31	32	2	GRS
PRR Conway, Pa.	1	2	--	6	--	US&S
RF&P Alexandria, Va.	7	--	39	39	--	US&S
Stl-SF Tulsa, Okla. Cherokee Yd.	11	--	40	40	2	GRS
SAL Hamlet, N.C.	--	1 (added)	--	--	--	US&S
	48	3	161	167	7	

### Signal Expenditures to Reach \$50 Million

Railroads can be expected to spend about \$50 to \$60 million in 1960 for additions and betterments in signaling. Heaviest spending will be for subways, retarder yards and centralized traffic control.

The New York City Transit Authority plans to spend upwards of \$15 million on signal modernization programs. The Chicago Transit Authority will probably begin signal work on its Lake street line elevation on C&NW right-of-way. Work will begin on six or eight retarder classification yards during the year.

Considerable activity on CTC projects will occur during the year. Several roads are well along on programs of CTCing their mainlines: AT&SF, C&O, CNR, NYC, NP, SP and UP. About 1,500 road-miles of CTC should be installed during 1960.

Hot box detector installations should make significant gains. Several roads plan to install them throughout their systems. Several western railroads may install hot box detectors this year, because the detectors can now be operated in conjunction with the signal system to set a signal to Stop.



**Centralized Traffic Control Installed During 1959 in the United States and Canada**

Railroad and Location	Miles	Power Switches	Spring Switches		Electric Locks	Controlled Signals	Automatic Signals	Mfr
			With Facing Point Lock	Without Facing Point Lock				
<b>AT&amp;SF</b>								
E. Ft. Madison-E. Shopton, Ia.	3.5d	--	--	--	6	--	4	US&S
W. Shopton, Ia.-Medill, Mo.	28.7d	10	--	--	7	16	32	US&S
Strong City, Kan.-Neva Pampa, Texas	4.1s	--	--	1	--	--	2	US&S
Abajo, N.M.-Isleta	2.6d	5	--	--	9	5	3	US&S
Rowe, N.M.-Lamy	11.0s	5	--	--	11	13	6	US&S
	16.0s	2	--	6	1	24	15	US&S
<b>ACL</b>								
Dunnellon, Fla.-N. Croom	36.6s	8	--	--	12	22	13	US&S
Vitis, Fla.-Tampa	28.5s	5	--	--	19	10	13	US&S
<b>B&amp;M</b>								
Somerville Jct., Mass.-Hill Crossing	2.6s	--	--	--	9	7	2	GRS
Concord, N.H.	0.7s	2	--	--	--	3	--	GRS
<b>CNR</b>								
Dugald, Man.-Redditt, Ont.	112.7s	14	--	13	4	42	41	GRS, US&S, SGF
Winnipeg, Man.-Dugald	6.9s	1	--	1	2	4	2	GRS
Boston Bar, B.C.-Port Mann	114.9s	17	--	13	10	49	36	GRS
Capreol, Ont.-Foleyet	148.3s	17	--	15	3	68	32	GRS, US&S, SGF
Homepayne, Ont.-Nakina	131.6s	18	--	13	7	67	31	GRS, US&S, SGF
Coteau, Que.-Hawthorne, Ont.	73.0s	8	--	8	13	32	14	GRS, SGF
Napadogan, N.B.-Edmundston	113.0s	16	--	10	8	58	26	GRS, US&S, SGF
<b>CPR</b>								
Trenton, Ont.-Port Hope	41.4s	8	--	--	5	28	22	GRS
Moose Jaw, Sask-Ermfold	65.1s	18	--	--	5	44	32	US&S
Revelstoke, B.C.-Taft	23.1s	7	--	--	--	21	12	GRS
<b>CofG</b>								
Barnesville, Ga.-Irving	15.0s	--	--	--	4	2	7	US&S
<b>C&amp;O</b>								
Sandstone, W. Va.-Prince	13.1d	29	--	--	14	47	17	US&S
Hinton, W. Va.-CW Cabin	1.9d	2	--	--	--	4	--	US&S
Shelby Jct., Ky.-Elkhorn City	15.6s	7	--	--	18	27	13	US&S
Trowbridge, Mich.-Lansing	2.6s	--	--	--	4	--	2	GRS
<b>CB&amp;Q</b>								
Congress Park, Ill.-Downers Grove	8.1t	8	--	--	10	19	8	GRS
Kansas City, Mo.-St. Joseph	51.1s							
	3.7d	13	--	--	15	65	26	US&S
<b>CMS&amp;P&amp;P</b>								
E. Madrid, Ia.-Collins	24.0s	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>D&amp;H</b>								
Buttonwood, Pa.-Hudson	5.7s&d	5	--	--	--	11	2	GRS
Carbondale, Pa.-W. Carbondale	2.0d	4	--	--	--	5	--	GRS
Ballston Spa, N.Y.-Saratoga Springs	13.4s,d,t	19	--	--	9	29	7	GRS
<b>D&amp;RGW</b>								
Avon, Colo.-Bond	60.0s	14	2	--	11	34	27	GRS
<b>DL&amp;W</b>								
E. Lincoln Park, N.J.-Montville	6.1s	4	--	--	2	6	5	US&S
Port Morris, N.J.-Slateford, Pa.	25.0s	8	--	--	2	16	20	US&S
<b>DM&amp;IR</b>								
Biwabik, Minn.-Largo	7.7s	4	--	--	5	12	5	US&S
	8.5d	5	--	--	5	15	3	US&S
<b>ERIE</b>								
Elmira, N.Y.-W. Elmira	1.9d	6	--	--	1	9	--	US&S
Huntington, Ind.-Round Lake	20.3s	1	--	--	5	9	6	US&S
Round Lake, Ind.-Akron	10.3d	1	--	--	3	5	8	US&S
<b>GTW</b>								
Battle Creek, Mich.	2.4s	6	--	--	--	10	--	US&S
<b>GN</b>								
Brookston, Minn.-Gunn	51.0s	16	1	--	4	44	--	GRS
Wheelock, N.D.-Epping	5.2s	2	--	--	1	6	--	GRS
Dodson, Mont.-Pacific Jct.	75.6s	25	--	--	23	53	--	GRS
<b>GM&amp;O</b>								
Mazonia, Ill.-Pequot	4.1s	1	--	--	--	7	3	GRS
	2.7d							
<b>NYC</b>								
Jackson, Mich.-Rives Jct.	5.0s	2	2	--	2	6	8	GRS

## Centralized Traffic Control Installed During 1959 in the U.S. and Canada (cont'd.)

Railroad and Location	Miles	Power Switches	Spring Switches		Electric Locks	Controlled Signals	Automatic Signals	Mfr	
			Facing-Point Lock	Facing-Point Lock					
<b>V&amp;W</b>									
S. Norfolk, Va.-Gilmerton	5.0d	10	--	--	6	23	--	US&S	
Petersburg, Va.-Camp Lee Jct.	2.7s	--	1	--	--	3	--	US&S	
Belspring, Va.-Eggleston	6.8s	2	--	--	1	6	4	US&S	
Shepherdstown, W. Va.	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	US&S	
Berryville, Va.	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	US&S	
Ashby, Va.	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	US&S	
Waynesboro, Va.	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	US&S	
Carbo, Va.	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	US&S	
Omega, Ohio-Lunbeck	10.0s	3	--	--	--	6	6	US&S	
<b>NP</b>									
Garrison, Mont.-Missoula	67.0s	17	1	--	16	64	42	GRS	
<b>PRR</b>									
Milton, Pa.-Williamsport	24.2s	5	--	--	9	15	11	US&S	
Nisbet, Pa.-Pine	9.8s	1	--	--	2	3	2	US&S	
Columbus, Ohio	0.4s	--	--	--	1	1	--	US&S	
<b>NS&amp;L</b>									
Sept Iles, Que.-Knob Lake-Schefferville	--	6	--	--	3	18	5	GRS	
<b>READING</b>									
Barnesville, Pa.-E. Mahanoy Jct.	0.7s	1	--	--	1	3	--	US&S	
<b>RL-SF</b>									
W. Cherokee, Okla.-Norris	1.7d	1	--	--	--	4	--	US&S	
Norris, Okla.-Oma	5.0s	--	--	--	--	--	2	US&S	
Oma, Okla.-Sapulpa	1.5d	1	--	--	3	4	--	US&S	
<b>AL</b>									
Hermitage, Va.-Richmond	2.9d	2	--	--	2	4	4	US&S	
	1.1s	--	--	--	--	--	1	US&S	
<b>SOUTHERN</b>									
Springfield, Va.-Bristow	19.4d	12	--	--	11	12	34	GRS	
<b>P (Pacific Lines only)</b>									
Massie, Nev.-Perth	47.0s	11	--	--	--	36	40	US&S	
Mescal, Ariz.-Lordsburg, N.M.	124.1s	39	1	2	14	122	106	US&S	
Lordsburg, N.M.-Anapra	140.5s	34	--	--	9	100	130	US&S	
Corporal, Cal.-Logan	6.7s	--	2	--	1	4	6	US&S	
Tucson, Ariz.-PFE Yard	2.5s	6	2	--	3	10	2	US&S	
Tresend, Utah-Bridge	12.6s	3	--	--	1	9	12	US&S	
<b>SP</b>									
Dothan, Tex.-Clyde	25.0s	7	--	--	--	18	--	GRS	
<b>IP</b>									
Reverse, Ida.-Glenns Ferry	15.0d	9	--	--	4	24	24	US&S	
Nampa, Ida.-Orchard	44.0s	7	--	--	36	28	50	US&S	
<b>ABASH</b>									
Lodge, Ill.-Gibson City	25.0s	4	--	--	13	9	--	US&S	
	143.5d	8.1t	1,855.3s	536	12	82	405	1,485	986
	Road Miles		2,006.9						

## Automatic Block Signaling and Train Stop Equipment Installed During 1959

Railroad & Location	Miles	Signals	Locks	Stops	Mfr	Railroad & Location	Miles	Signals	Locks	Stops	Mfr
<b>BM System</b>	6.9d	8	--	--	GRS	<b>NYCTA New York, N.Y.</b>	1.0f	9	--	9	GRS
	1.8s	4	--	--	GRS		1.1f	18	--	18	US&S
							1.5d	43	--	43	US&S
<b>TA Chicago, Ill.</b>	1.0d	13	--	--	US&S	<b>NP System</b>	18.0s	36	2	--	GRS
<b>L&amp;W Scranton, Pa.-Taylor</b>	2.5t	7	--	--	US&S		26.0d	28	--	--	GRS
<b>Cayuga, Pa.-Clarks Summit</b>	4.0s	2	--	--	US&S	<b>ONL Swastika, Ont.-Bourkes</b>	20.0s	27	1	--	--
<b>Binghamton, N.Y.-Gibson</b>	--	--	--	93*	--	<b>CYofPA Philadelphia, Pa.</b>	3.0d	45	12	40	US&S
<b>I&amp;E Griffith, Ind.-Van Loon</b>	2.8d	2	--	--	GRS	<b>SOU Knoxville, Tenn.-Coster</b>	1.0s	2	--	2	--
<b>IE Waverly, N.Y.-Big Flats</b>	--	3	--	--	US&S	<b>SP&amp;S Cliffs, Wash.</b>	1.6s	2	--	--	GRS
<b>IL Bayonne, N.J.</b>	1.5f	--	--	81*	US&S	<b>UP Council Bluffs, Iowa</b>	0.5s	2	--	--	US&S
<b>Mechanical trip-type stops</b>	--	--	--	10	US&S						
<b>EC Winthrop, Me-Waterville</b>	28.6s	28	--	--	GRS						
<b>ITA Boston, Mass.</b>	12.2d	87	3	33	US&S						
							75.5s, 53.4d, 2.5t, 3.6f	363	21	155	
							Road Miles	135.0	* Rolling stock	174*	

# SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION IN 1959

continued

## Spring Switches Installed in 1959

Railroad	Spring Switches	Facing-Point		Signals at Spring Switches
		Locks		
AT&SF	2	--		4
ACL	1	--		--
B&M	2	--		--
CNR	1	--		1
C&NW	10	4		--
CB&Q	2	2		3
DL&W	2	--		5
DT&I	1	--		1
ERIE	3	3		9
GN	1	1		2
IC	1	--		--
L&NE	2	--		2
LIRR	1	1		--
L&N	3	--		--
MTA	2	--		2
NYC	1	--		2
NYC&StL	1	1		2
SAL	1	1		1
SP (Pacific Lines only)	7	4		18
T&P	3	--		9
	47	17		61

## Safety Detectors Installed in 1959

Railroad	Wheel Detectors	Dragging Equipment Detectors	Hot Box Detectors	Slide Detector		Other
				Fence, feet		
ACL	--	1	2	--		--
B&M	--	--	7	--		--
CPR	--	--	--	235		--
C&O	--	--	11	--		--
C&NW	--	--	--	200		--
CB&Q	1	2	--	--		--
CMS tP&P	--	--	1	--		--
Clinchfield	--	--	1	1,724		--
D&H	--	--	2	--		--
D&RGW	--	--	2	400		--
DM&IR	--	--	1	--		--
ERIE	--	6	--	--		--
GN	--	--	--	3,683		--
L&N	1	1	7	--		--
NYC	--	--	16	--		--
NYCTA	--	--	--	--		--
					2 smoke detectors	
N&W	--	--	3	--		--
NP	--	--	--	2,000		--
PRR	--	5	19	--		--
P&LE	--	2	4	4,000		--
RF&P	--	2	--	--		--
StL-SF	--	--	2	--	5,032 feet fire protection(bridge)	--
SAL	1	--	--	--		--
SOUTHERN	7	2	36	--		--
SP (Pac. Lines only)	2	2	4	580		--
SP&S	--	--	--	20,925		--
T&P	--	--	2	--		--
UP	--	--	--	3,923		--
VGN	--	--	1	--		--
WP	--	--	--	1,455		--
	10	23	121	39,125		

# Highway Crossing Protection in 1959

Railroad	Flashing Light Signals	Gates and Flashers	Number of Crossings Equipped		
			Railroad	Non-Railroad	Joint
AT&SF	42	16	14	15	29
A&WP	1	--	1	--	--
ACL	40	10	9	6	35
B&O	11	7	5	2	11
BAR	2	--	--	--	2
B&M	5	10	10	1	4
CNR	119	19	4	7	127
CPR	106	17	1	4	118
CoFg	3	1	1	--	3
C&O	21	7	2	1	25
C&E	4	2	1	--	5
C&NW	52	28	24	--	56
CB&Q	11	11	4	--	18
CGW	8	6	7	3	4
CMS tP&P	37	13	36	--	14
CNS &M	--	2	--	2	--
CRI&P	45	8	25	3	25
CSS&SB	--	3	3	--	--
Clinchfield	--	1	--	1	--
D&H	1	8	4	1	4
D&RGW	6	1	2	4	1
DL&W	4	3	1	2	4
DT&I	5	--	--	--	5
DM&IR	--	1	--	--	1
DSS&A	2	--	--	--	2
EJ&E	1	--	1	--	--
ERIE	9	11	8	3	9
FEC	5	20	7	9	9
FW&D	1	--	--	--	1
G&F	3	2	--	--	5
GTW	6	2	--	--	8
GN	10	10	10	2	8
GM&O	6	1	--	1	6
IC	11	16	7	5	15
IT	1	--	--	--	1
JCL	2	3	2	2	1
KCS	2	--	--	--	2
KO&G	6	--	--	--	6
L&NE	2	--	--	--	2
LIRR	4	11	6	--	9
L&N	10	7	4	6	7
MeC	5	--	1	1	3
M&StL	7	1	--	1	7
MKT	6	--	5	--	1
MP	21	5	10	1	15
NYC	59	29	26	7	55
P&LE	--	1	--	1	--
NYC&StL	10	1	5	--	6
NYNH&H	4	2	2	4	--
N&W	4	6	1	--	9
NP	15	2	5	--	12
ONL	2	--	--	--	2
PGE	--	2	2	--	--
PRR	27	16	25	4	14
P-RS	1	--	1	--	--
QC	1	--	--	--	1
READING	4	15	14	2	3
RF&P	--	4	--	--	4
StL-SF	15	3	4	1	13
StLSW	10	--	7	--	3
SAL	17	10	7	1	19
SOO	17	1	--	1	17
SOUTHERN	22	11	5	6	22
SP (Pac. Lines only)	83	13	18	20	58
SP&S	2	--	--	--	2
TRRS L	2	--	--	--	2
T&P	10	1	2	1	8
TP&W	9	--	1	6	2
TH&B	7	--	--	--	7
UP	24	5	6	3	20
VGN	2	--	--	--	2
WABASH	8	2	5	--	5
WM	5	--	3	--	2
WP	9	--	1	3	5
	1,012	387	355	143	901