

Electricity In Railroad Shops

How Power Is Used by the Southern Pacific at Sacramento

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When it comes to power, railroad shops are like all other industries; they need it. The shops of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, at Sacramento, California, are the largest and most complete maintained by the Harriman system on the Pacific slope. They are located in the northwest corner of the city, covering practically all the space north of H Street and west of Sixth. They are equipped to do all kinds of maintenance, repair, and construction work necessary in the operation of a great railroad. When they are running at fullest capacity about 3,500 men are employed. July 1st, 1910, there was a total of 3,296 men on the payrolls of the shop alone, not counting road or station employees.

Soon after the Folsom power plant had begun in 1895 to deliver electric energy to Sacramento through twenty-two miles of a 10,000-volt line, at that time the longest and highest voltage transmission line operating, a contract was entered into between the electric and railroad companies whereby the electric company was to supply the railroad company with electricity for general power and lighting purposes.

The shops began operating under this contract August 10th, 1896. At that time the total connected load was 105 horsepower in alternating-current, three-phase, 440-volt motors; 25 horsepower in direct-current, 550-volt motors; 240 sixteen-candle-power, 120-volt, incandescent lamps; and 36 open-series, direct-current, arc lamps. Power for the alternating-current motors was supplied



Heads of departments and foremen of the Southern Pacific Shops at Sacramento