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LAW BY AIR

JOE SNELUS, M.E. 2

Emulating the example set by the larger and more progressive cities of the United States, Columbus has inaugurated a police radio system. This work is under the supervision of Corporal C. E. Martin, of the Columbus Police Department. The purpose of the system is to enable the department to extend more efficient protection to every citizen in the community.

When a call is received at the Central Police Station, it is telephoned to the radio room, where it is broadcast to the cruiser, one of the radio equipped cars, nearest the location at which the police are desired. The cruiser immediately rushes to the scene and the police are ready to handle the situation, whatever it may be. The maximum time elapsing between the reception of the call and the arrival of the police at the scene, regardless of its location in the city, is about three minutes. The time required ranges from one-half to three minutes, depending on the location of the nearest cruiser at the time the call is broadcast.

The city has been divided into seven precincts each of which is just large enough to enable a cruiser to drive from one corner to the opposite corner in a fraction over three minutes. There are fourteen radio cruisers in the system, numbered from one to fourteen. Two cars, an even numbered and an odd numbered car, are assigned to each precinct. The even numbered cars operate in their respective precincts for a period of 24 hours, after which they are placed in the City Garage for any necessary repairs, being replaced throughout the city by the odd numbered cruisers.

The transmitter, an R.C.A., Model ET-3666, is operated by Mr. Henry Haye, Mr. C. T. Wade, and Mr. Sam Chick, who work in shifts. It consists of a modulator and a 200 watt R.C.A. master oscillator. The output of the transmitter is one-fourth kilowatt, at a frequency of 2416 kilocycles, in accordance with the rules of the Federal Radio Commission. The modulator, which transforms the voice into electrical impulses capable of being broadcast, is neatly constructed in a cabinet about six feet high, two feet wide, and two feet deep. The Master oscillator is of about the same dimensions as the modulator, and very similar in appearance. It is operated by a power supply of 200 volts. Since it requires direct current for operation, a 200-volt, three phase, sixty cycle alternating current supply is rectified before reaching the oscillator. All tubes in both the modulator and the oscillator are air cooled. This equipment requires very little space, and is typical of the compactness being obtained by the radio experts of today.

The radio cruisers are Model "A" Ford coaches with the rear seat removed, and a Bosch radio has been placed in each. These cars, under the supervision of Mr. Fred Kuntz, are occupied by two policemen. The receiving sets are tuned to the frequency of the transmitter so that no message can be missed by the particular cruiser to which the message is directed.

The radio system of policing has proven a huge success in many cities, and little doubt as to the effectiveness of the system in Columbus has been

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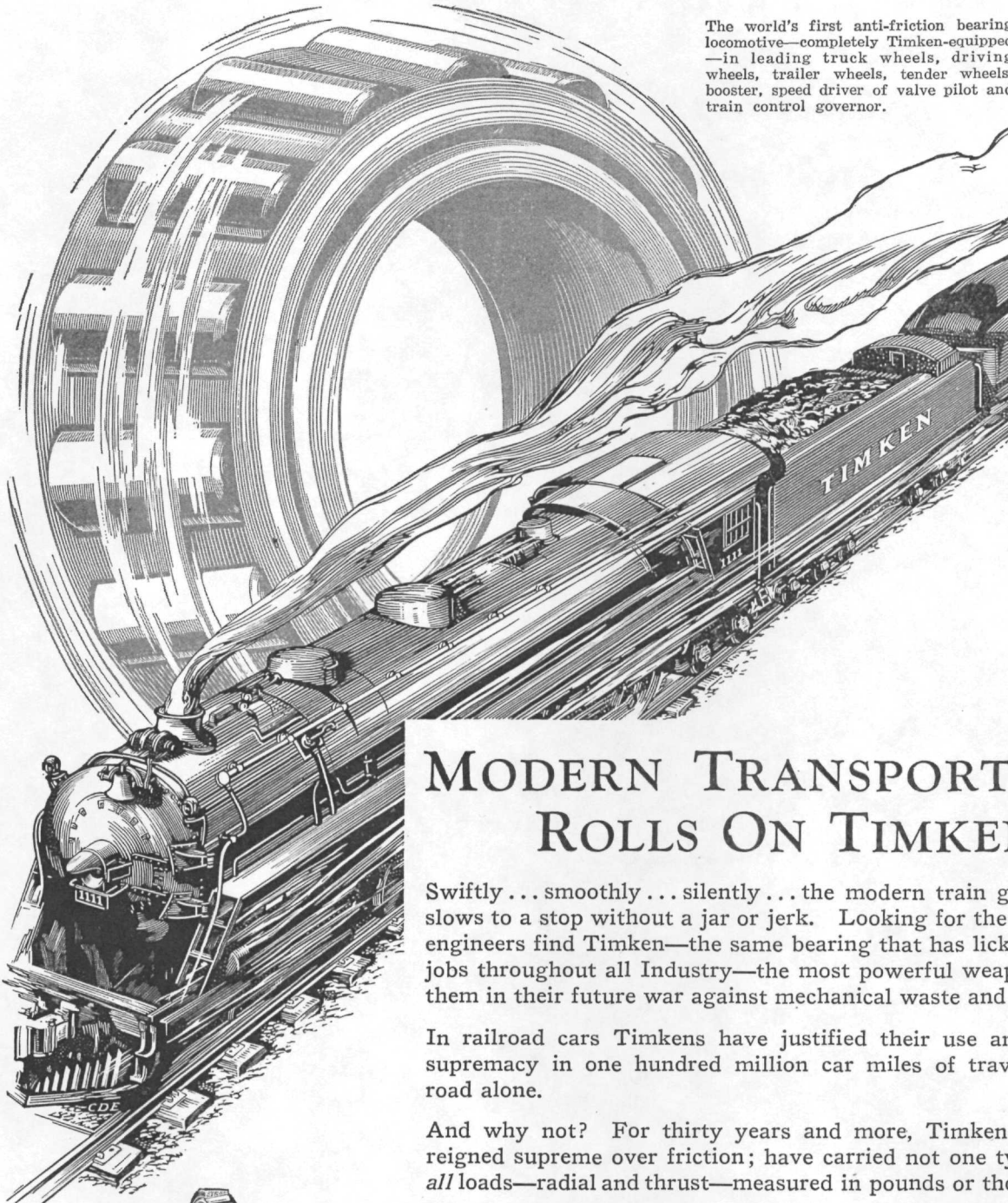
LAW BY AIR

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NOVEMBER, 1930

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