

DANGERS OF DIRECT CURRENT

George Westinghouse Sees More Advantages in His Alternating System.

George Westinghouse, President of the Westinghouse Electric Company, in a letter to The Railroad Gazette of last week of loose electric currents on all underground metallic work such as is employed in the Subway and in the New York Central and Pennsylvania tunnel improvements and on the city gas and water pipes.

"It has been shown fully and completely," he says, "that the direct current is working all of the time in the destruction of some of the metallic structures, especially water and gas pipes, adjacent to electric conductors, which metallic structures invariably act as conductors for some of the current escaping from the uninsulated rails forming part of the electric circuit in railroad operations."

He shows photographs of water pipes destroyed by electrolytic action from direct current circuits such as is carried by the third rail in use in the Subway and on the upper railroad about to be installed in the Park Avenue tunnel, and contends that the steel structural part of the New York City Subway will be so destroyed unless the alternating current is used, which, he says, has practically no destructive effect on metal pipes and structural steel.

In the same number of The Railroad Gazette he makes public certain correspondence with President Newman of the New York Central in which he asserts that high speed with heavy trains is economically possible only where the alternating current is used, and he believes that in the few substitutions so far made of direct current, third-rail electric motors for steam locomotives, the work will need to be done over again.

~~STEEL WORKS AMAS FEAST.~~

Mrs. Seaman, Who Was "Nellie Bly," Supervises Rejoicing of Her Employees.

Fifteen hundred employees of the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company had a big dinner "on the house" on Saturday night in the show room at 204 and 206 Varot Street, Brooklyn. As they passed out of the room, after having filled themselves with good things they met Mrs. E. S. Seaman, owner of the place, who once was "Nellie Bly," with her office staff of fifty persons. She called each by name. Baskets, presents to the employees, lay on the tables in huge piles. Every basket contained enough to fill eight hungry men to repletion. Here are a few of the things they contained: Chicken, plum pudding, coffee, soup, baked beans, biscuits, candy, oranges, apples, and cigars. Every foreman received, in addition, a box of cigars.

Mrs. Seaman is President of the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company. A week ago she gave a progressive euchre party in the clubroom and library of the Iron Clad Library Association. A little while before that a reception and ball were given in her new steel barrel factory and more than 3,000 persons attended. Mrs. Seaman and Dr. Peters led the grand march. Committees of the Iron Clad Library Association are arranging lectures at which prominent men will speak. The Recreation Committee gives a musicale once a month.

The Iron Clad Company boasts that in its fifty years of existence it has never had a labor trouble of any kind.