A Collection of Timken "Roller Freight" Advertisements

Edwin R. Kraft

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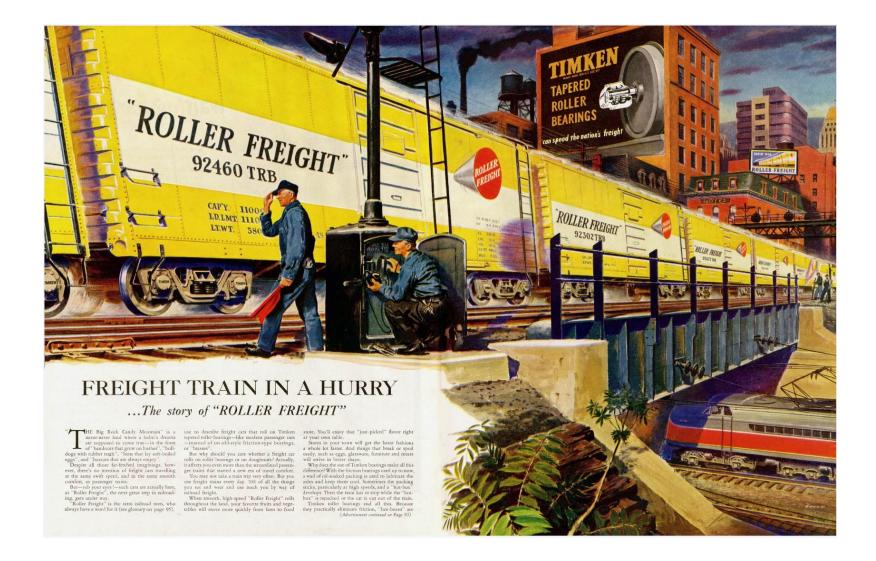
The Timken Company was one of the first to introduce roller bearings for railroad cars. According to Wikipedia, railroad cars owned and operated by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway were among the first to use roller bearings rather than "oil waste journal" boxes. Henry Timken, a German immigrant founded the company in 1899.

The initial applications of roller bearings were on locomotives and passenger cars, but Timken heavily promoted the idea of "Roller Freight" as a significant advancement in railroading. These ads appeared in the mid-20th century, a time when railroads were actively modernizing and seeking ways to improve efficiency and speed.

Vintage Timken Roller Freight ads are now sought-after collectibles, particularly by those interested in railroad history and in advertising memorabilia. Many collectors have posted images of the advertisements on-line at public sites like EBay as well as others. This provided the source the images in this collection, which were all retrieved from the internet in the Fall of 2024.

Even to this day, there is a debate in the literature as to whether friction vs. roller bearing cars should be modeled using different Davis equation coefficients. These advertisements show that Timken Company certainly believed that their roller bearings would reduce rolling resistance as well as provide other benefits such as improved safety.

This collection of advertisements is offered not only for historical enjoyment, but also to document some of the technical claims that were made about roller bearings as of the time of their widespread adoption by the North American railroad industry.



Why freight trains get shorter in winter



IN EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER, it has been common railroad practice to reduce the number of cars in a freight train in order to keep the train moving on schedule. Some railroads reduce their loads 10% when the mercury hits 15 degrees; at zero and below, the cut may be as high as 30%! Why? Chielly because, with the friction bearings commonly used on freight cars, low temperatures stiffen the oil in the journal box and prevent proper lubrication. Starting resistance is increased so

much that the locomotive no longer can get a full string of cars underway, and the tonnage has to be reduced. That's what winter weather does to freight trains . .



WHEN FREIGHT TRAINS, like modern passenger trains, are equipped with Timken tapered roller bearings, they start smooth as silk, summer or winter!

With Timken bearings on the axles, locomotives can pull full-length trains all year round. Shippers will get faster delivery of goods. Rail-roads can be free from costly cold weather delays due to bearings.

After extensive tests one leading railroad re-ported officially that "The implications are that no matter how low the temperature, the resistance of the Timken roller bearing cars will be no higher in winter than in summer . . ." Yes, no drastic cuts in winter freight tonnage is one

big reason why "Roller Freight" is the next great

With "Roller Freight", hot boxes are eliminated; maintenance is reduced; freights can travel at passenger train speeds; and there's smaller chance of damage to lading because 88% less starting resistance makes possible velvet-smooth, jolt-free starts and stops.

Timken tapered roller bearings take any com-bination of radial and thrust loads. Whether you make freight cars or printing presses, air-planes or power shovels, be sure the trade-mark "Timken" is on every tapered roller bearing you use. The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Tapered Roller Bearings, Alloy Steels and Tubing, Removable Rock Bits.

BEARINGS can speed the nation's freight

NOT JUST A BALL 🔿 NOT JUST A ROLLER 💳 THE TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER 😊 BEARING TAKES RADIAL 🖞 AND THRUST 📲 LOADS OR ANY COMBINATION 🂥



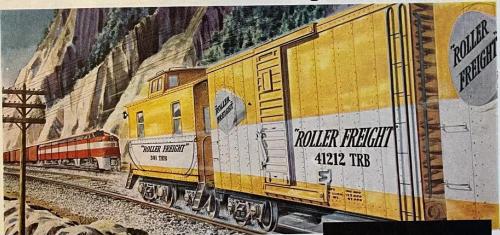
Which train is on the "right track"?



to figure this one out. Take a good look at these

more dependable freight service, only one of these trains is on the "right track"...

..the one that's "Roller Freight"!



passenger trains when they replace their friction bearings with high speed Timken tapered roller

Timken bearings eliminate "hot boxes". They reduce maintenance and remove all speed restrictions due to bearings. And because Timken bearings reduce starting resistance 88%, "Roller Freight" gets under way smoothly and effortlessly. Fuel consumption is cut. Velvet starts and stops permit goods to arrive in better condition.

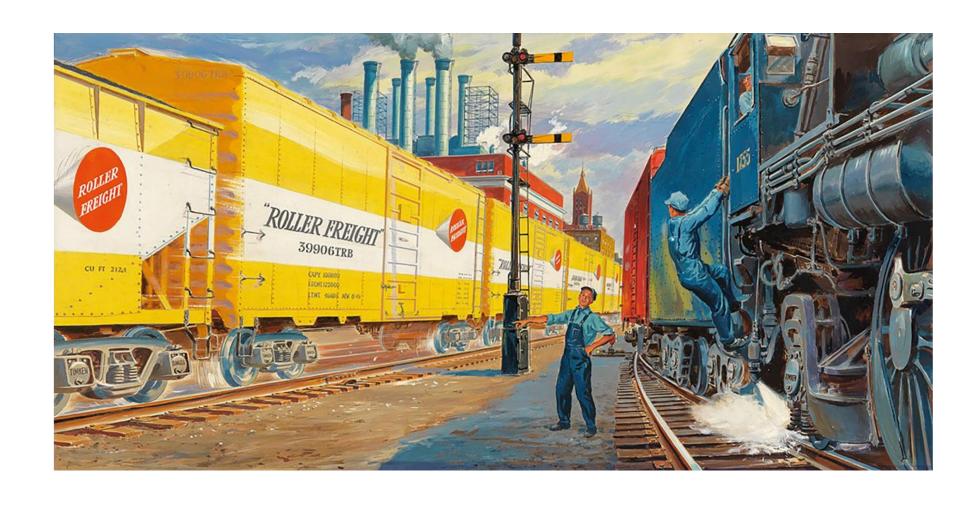
Already two great railroads have taken the next

great step in railroading by going"Roller Freight" on a large scale: 1000 Timken-equipped hopper cars for one, 800 Timken-equipped livestock dispatch cars for the other.

Timken tapered roller bearings are first choice because they take any combination of radial and thrust loads. Whether you're building freight cars or automobiles, machine tools or tractors, for the best in bearings look for the trade-mark "Timken". The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Tapered Roller Bearings, Alloy Steels and Tubing, Removable Rock Bits.

BEARINGS can speed the nation's freight

NOT JUST A BALL O NOT JUST A ROLLER THE TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER DEARING TAKES RADIAL AND THRUST -D- LOADS OR ANY COMBINATION



Here's how America gets things done.



AMERICANS DRIVE SOL. If harmoning a river calls for the world's hargest date. American industry goes and and builds it—with whatever new ideas, nonquirent it takes. One idea that speeds construcies the elimination of fraction in machinery h Tanken bearings.

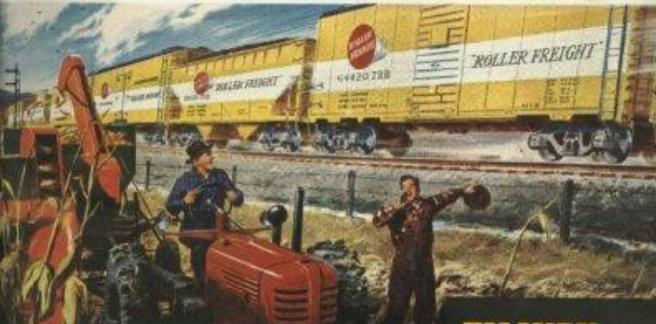


2 AMERICANS WORK TOGETHER, You've read how furners get together with acords of reapers to harvest one man's crop. Lending a hand, too, are the Tinken capered roller hearings in the farm equipment. They do away with wasteful friction and wear as wheels and shafes.



3 AMERICANS MOVE FAST. In 51 short automotive industry's miraculous practiced have put the world an wheat the markines that banid the cars—as we care themselves—are equipped with frie nating Tierken bearings.

the newest example is "Roller Freight"



ow asoner seeact of American industry number stay) It's "Ruller Freight"—freight with Tunken hearings on their which set of friction bearings.

tolar Freight" will travel as fast as Tunkening equipped passenger trains. The things par, were and torswill reach confusion, fresher, Roller Freight, will reduce disnage to goods are Tunken bearings cut starting crestance are 18%, eleminate joling starts and stops. Roller Freight," will eleminate "box boxes," the delays they cause, our rationals fuel manuarizator costs, emble locations in passe cars, and make more over available tacking! The radioards have already started the switch to "Roller Freight"—from a handful of care on some rouds to as many as \$00 and 1,000 on others.

By climinating westeful friction on the railroads and throughout all industry, Tonken bearings help produce the profits that holid America. If you build freight cars or reapers, construction equipment or intomobiles—or any other product where wheels and sholls turn remember you can make it hency with bearings that have the trade-mark "Tonken". The Towers Roller Beating Company, Canton 6, Onio. Cable address: "Toneosco". Tapered Roller Beatings, Alloy Sécols and Tubing, Businesside Rock fits. TIMKEN
TAPERED ROLLER
BEARINGS

can speed the nation's freight

What's your hurry?



expute to reason Loved on a farm as a kidga has fracts and vegetables drags from He'll the day when they're runhed his way by in Freight'—freight trains that can travel at ager trains appeals.



2. we cannot be reasoned for the construction job. What a spot for the "reab-read" deliveress that will be possible when reilroads equip their freight cars with Tiesken" topered roller bearings?



3. plant. And he's going to need extra for on some sew equipment. He's another of the who'll welcome the day when railroads a "Roller Freight"—the next great step in rail

You'll get it faster via "Roller Freight"



can remover — freight trains equipped i passenger trains and focusestives, with a roller bearings—will cut the delivery most everything you set and wear and use, muchine tools, surth movers, form impleant countless other types of nucliancy, cars, too gain hig advantages in rethered , and longer life when they are equipped linker bearings.

ther Freight" can travel with passenger pont and smoothness. "Hot box" delays duce starting resistance 89%, there are an joining starts to damage lading.

Tireken bearings take any combination of radial and threat leads. First choice throughout industry wherever the leads are tough, Tanken bearings aliminate wasteful friction phelp imure the profits so essential to our American Way, Make stee the trade-mark "Tenken" is on the bearings you use. The Tiseken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio, Cable address: "TIMROSCO", Tapered Roller Bearings,

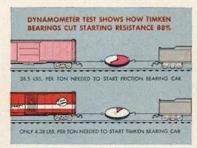


can speed the nation's freight

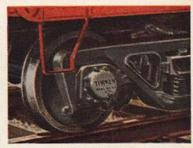
Why freight trains back up to go forward



IT'S TOUGH WORK to slide a steel drum across 1 IT'S TOUGH WORK to slide a steel drum across a floor. The easy way is to roll it. And for the same reason it's harder for a locomotive to get a string of freight cars moving when they're mounted on old-style friction bear-ings instead of roller bearings.



2 STARTING RESISTANCE of friction bearings is extremely high (as this diagram shows) because metal slides against metal. By contrast, starting resistance is reduced a whopping 88% with Timken bearings because they have true rolling motion.



3 WITH TIMKEN BEARINGS a whole freight train starts smoothly as a unit. Without them, cars have to be jerked into motion one at a time—which means the train must be backed first to take up the slack. That's why freight trains back up to go forward . . .

unless they're "Roller Freight"!



"ROLLER FREIGHT" GETS UNDER WAY 4 "ROLLER FREIGHT GETS Stand jars to damage lading.

And because Timken tapered roller bearings remove all speed restrictions due to bearings, "Roller Freight" can whisk along at a passenger train clip. Delays due to "hot boxes" are eliminated. Shippers and consumers alike will benefit from speedier service. Merchandise will arrive in tip-top condition.

"Roller Freight" also means operating economies for the railroads. Maintenance costs are cut, utilization of cars increased, fuel consumption reduced. No need for drastic winter cuts in freight tonnage.

Already two great railroads have taken the next great step in railroading by going "Roller Freight" on a large scale. 1000 Timken-equipped hopper cars for one; 800 Timken-equipped stock cars for the other.

Because Timken bearings take any combination of radial and thrust loads they're first choice for the toughest jobs. Whether you build freight cars or automobiles, machine tools or tractors, for the best in bearings look for the trade-mark "Timken". The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Tapered Roller Bearings, Alloy Steels and Tubing, Removable Rock Bits.



COPR. 1948 THE TIMKEN ROLLER BEARING COMPANY

NOT JUST A BALL ONOT JUST A ROLLER THE TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER BEARING TAKES RADIAL

AND THRUST - O-LOADS OR ANY COMBINATION





These trailers will roll 1000 miles today



... because highway trailers and railroad cars got together

HIGHWAY TRAILERS AND TRAINS TEAM UP TO GIVE YOU FASTER, SURER SERVICE WITH "ROLLER FREIGHT"

You're looking at a great new solution to America's transportation problem ... teamwork! Trailer operators and railroads are using those specially designed flat ears to take highway trailers over the rails to cut hours, even days off long-haul schedules. For example, New York to St. Louis – 1000 miles — in just 26 hours. Result: everyhody benefits because shappers get faster service, trailer operators and railroads make a profit, and you get your goods on time. That's Better-ness!

How can Trailer-Train owners deliver goods so fast—twice as fast as the average freight train? First, they pooneered interchangeable paggy-back cars. And they standardized on the latest equipment advances. Foremost among these—they went 100% "Roller Freight". With roller bearings instead of friction bearings on the car axles,

there are no speed limitations imposed by bearings.
Over half of all bearings on Trailer-Train's 2000 cars are on Timken's laprar foller bearings.
They'll roll up to 168,000 miles a year with no fear of hot boxes. No. 1 cause of freight train deavs. That's because Timken bearings roll the load instead of sliding it. And bearing inspection time in terminals is cut 90%. Timken freight car bearings will go 4 years without adding lubricant.
Nearly all makes of trucks and trailers, too,

Nearly all makes of trucks and trailers, too, toll on Timken tapered roller hearings. They're healt to take all the pounding, lurching loads up, down and sideways.

up, down and sideways.

More and more railroads are going "Roller Freight". Already over 42,000 Timken bearing-cquipped freight cars are in service or on order—over 2/3 of them in general interchange service. Look for Timken bearings on all the machines that are bringing you fletter-ness. First in bearings for 60 years. The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Cable: "Tissnosco".



BETTER-NESS rolls on

TIMKEN

tapered roller bearings

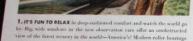
TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER BEARINGS . TIMKEN FINE ALLOY STEELS . TIMKEN REMOVABLE ROCK BITS

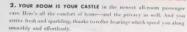




COAST-TO-COAST
THROUGH SERVICE

GLIDING RIDE







3. THROUGH SERVICE COAST-TO-COAST without changing care is one of the latest improvements on the railroads. And it's flut service, too! All speed restrictions due to bearings are eliminated when cars are equipped with modern roller bearings.



4. THE TIMKEN NAME ON THE JOURNAL BOX is the sign of a modern train, Timken tapered roller bearings reduce starting resistance 80%. They pare the way for austained high speeds of 100 mapch, and more! Delaw due to bot boxes climanted.



Do you know your railroad lingo?



"BAT THE STACK"—That's railroad talk for driving a locomotive at high speed. Modern passenger cars and locomotives owe much of their speed and smoothness to Timken roller bearings. And soon Timken bearings will make it



2 "HIGHBALL ARTIST"—In the colorful business of railroading, there's a colorful word for everything. An engineer, for instance, is called a "highball artist". His job will be easier when freight cars roll on Timken bearings because starting resistance will be cut 88%.



3 "HOT BOX"—This man is signalling to a passing train that a car has a "hot box"—rail-troader's term for an overheated axle. When the friction bearings now used on freight cars are replaced by Timken roller bearings, "hot box" will begin to disappear from railroad lingo!

The latest is "Roller Freight"!



"ROLLER FREIGHT"—That's a freight train that rolls, like a modern streamliner, on Timken tapered roller bearings. It's the next great step in railroading! It will make possible faster, more dependable delivery of the things we eat and wear and use.

Because Timken bearings remove all speed restrictions due to bearings, "Roller Freight" can highball along like a streamliner! "Hot boxes" are eliminated, maintenance costs reduced, starting resistance cut by 88%. And Timken bearings can increase freight car availability by keeping them out of the repair shop and on the rails.

More and more railroads are switching to "Roller Freight"—from a handful of cars for some roads to as many as 800 and 1000 cars for others.

Throughout industry, Timken bearings are first choice for the tough jobs because they take any combination of radial and thrust loads. Whether you build freight cars or combines, machine tools or automobiles, make sure the trade-mark "Timken" is on the bearings. The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Cable address: "TIMROSCO". Tapered Roller Bearings, Alloy Steels and Tubing, Removable Rock Bits.

TIMKEN
TAPERED
ROLLER
BEARINGS
can speed the nation's freight

COPR. 1949 THE TIMKEN ROLLER BEARING COMPAN

NOT JUST A BALL O NOT JUST A ROLLER THE TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER DEARING TAKES RADIAL AND THRUST - LOADS OR ANY COMBINATION

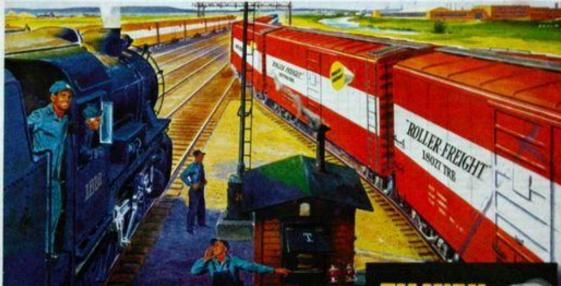
Quick report on things to come...







when railroads switch to "Roller Freight"!



RAILEOADS ARE NOW putting roller bearings on 4 all modern passenger cars and becommerce.

And for good reasons. To name a few: higher speeds, smoother tides, lower feel costs, less time. out for repairs, increased availability of equipment.

Everyone stands to benefit when freight cars, too, are rolling on Timken tapered rolling our timken tapered rolling suntend of old-style friction bearings. You'll easy even fresher food on the table. Fragile items will arrive in tip-top condition. Your rosh shipments will get there faster. All because Timken bearings permit speedier, smoother, more dependable freight service. It's the next great step in railroading—"Roller Freight".

The railroads have already started the switch to "Roller Freight"-from a handful of cars for some roads to as many as 800 and 1000

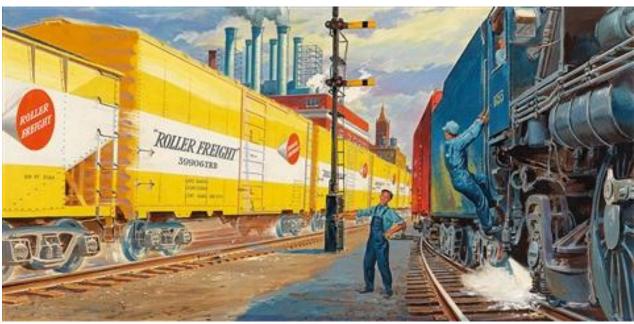
for others.

Because Timken tapered roller bearings take any combination of radial and thrust loads, they're first choice for the tough jobs divoughout industry. Whether you build freight cars or cement mixers, machine tools or tractors, time cars or automobiles, the trade-mark "Timken" means the best bearings you can buy. The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio, Cable address: "TDIROSCO". Topered Roller Bearings, Alley Storis and Tuborg, Remissable Rock Bits.

BEARINGS can speed the nation's freight

NOT JUST A BALL 🔿 NOT JUST A ROLLER 📂 THE TIMKEN TAPERED ROLLER 🗁 BEARING TAKES RADIAL 🕴 AND THRUST 🕕 LOADS OR ANY COMBINATION 💥





Shorter wait...



with "Roller Freight"!

EVER wait at a crossing while a freight train passes by? Then you've probably wondered if the day would ever come when freight train would travel be fast in passenger trains. Well, the answer's us the way! It's "Holler Freight"—the next great step in collecting!

Forward looking American tultroads know that friction bearings are just what their name implies —they retard motion. The railroads know, too, that Tenken tapered roller bearings remove all

speed restrictions due to bearings-they speed freight along. Already one rolload has ordered 1000 are hopper can equipped with Tenken topered roller bearings—"Roller Freight" is on its one;

With "Roller Freight" high-holling scross the country, shippers and consumers will enjoy faster delivery of goods, And once Torsion hearings reduce starting resistance 88%, "Roller Freight" will start exceptibly and effortlessly, without duraaging jury and jobs.

On the extraods and throughout industrywherever wheels and shelfa turn. Timken bearings. are first choice for the tough jobs,

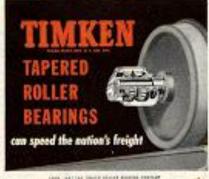
Whether you're building freight cam or sirplines, logging equipment or tractors, muchine tools or printing persons, he care the trademark "Tinkon" is on every opered roller hearing you lary. The Tinkon Holler Bearing Company, Canton 6, Onio, Tajered Buller Bearings, Alloy Steels and Tubing, Removable Rock Sits.



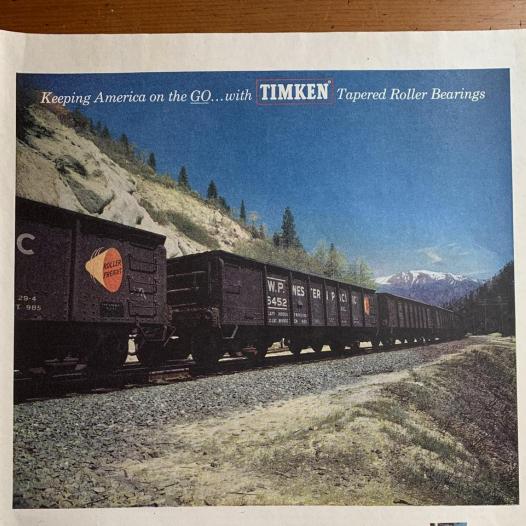
NEW STREAMLISTES will more being you the last word in fast, lexinious travel. The radiously on questing million of delikes on this modern upoly-moust and deep're not covoluting a fising! Tradem barriage on the street will great sensitive starts and a model gliding ride.



WHEN YOU SET HE ARES "Timber" on the la week TQU 181 for came "Finders" on the Joseph hos you can be used it's a multire rudered our. Debets bestings mean recalled free appraisas. Maintenance mets are cut. Delays due to "but hears" are elusionist. Like of oppinguist longitured. Uniterated of rass and homospition increased.



NOT JUST A BALL ONOT JUST A ROLLER CO. THE TIMEEN TAPERED ROLLER CO BEARING TAKES RADIAL (LAND THRUST - COACS OR ANY COMMINATION X



How Western Pacific switched from this sign



to this sign for this sign on time





EVERY railroader is alerted to watch for hot boxes on passing trains—and to signal by holding his nose when he sees one. When that signal comes, the engineer stops the train. The train may be delayed for hours—the car with the hot box for days.

The "Roller Freight" sign on the cars above replaces the hot box sign. It says the Western Pacific is eliminating the hot box problem by switching to Timken* tapered roller bearings.

Western Pacific is using 100 of these "Roller Freight" gondolas to help speed deliveries on a 900-mile run—has 85 more Timken-bearing-equipped cars on order. In twenty-five months the 100 cars have traveled over 8,500,000 trouble-free car-miles.

Timken bearings eliminate the hot box problem because they roll the load. They cut terminal inspection time 90%, lubricant cost as much as 89%. Timken bearings are designed to

roll true, made to live up to their design. They're lowest cost in terms of performance.

The railroads, like all industry, are

The railroads, like all industry, are using more and more Timken bearings to keep America on the go. The Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton 6, Ohio. Canadian

plant: St. Thomas, Ontario. Cable: "TIMROSCO".





Only TIMKEN bearings roll so true, have such quality thru-&-thru