

Co-Co Triumphs In Four-Day Test

51 WAGONS
HAULED
100 ACTUAL
MILES—
NON-STOP

MANY records of performance and durability must have been established by products of Meccano Limited over the years, but none can have been more impressive than that recently

By The Editor

achieved by a Hornby-Dublo Two-Rail Co-Co Diesel Electric Locomotive in Meccano's attractive and roomy London Showrooms which front on to Berkeley Square.

A special test run to last four days was arranged, and I may tell you that quite a number of people had their fingers crossed about this because the trial through which the Co-Co Diesel was to be put was indeed an extremely exacting one. Its task was to haul 50 wagons (actually, 51 were put on for good weight!) a distance of 100 actual miles. It was not planned that this should be done non-stop, but in point of fact that was achieved, to the delight of those responsible for arranging this fascinating demonstration.

For those who are interested in statistics, the Co-Co Diesel Electric Locomotive, weighing only 1 lb. 6 ounces, actually hauled a train which was over 17 feet in length. Starting to move at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, October 1, it covered the distance of 100 statute miles at an average scale speed of more than 82 miles an hour by 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, October 5.

The Locomotive hauled its train load around a 52 ft. track which equalled three-quarters of a statute mile in scale. To complete the run of 100 actual miles it was necessary to make 10,133 circuits of the track, and it was felt when the demonstration was first arranged that it might be



necessary to stop the locomotive once in every 24 hours for the purpose of re-oiling the armature bearings. However, as the run progressed it was obvious that this procedure was not necessary. Indeed, when the locomotive was subsequently examined for wear on the brushes and commutator it was found to be capable of running well in excess of the task set for it.

During the four days of high-speed running the tiny armature of the locomotive completed more than 78,000,000 revolutions. The motor was of the Ring Field type which has brought so much delight to many thousands of Hornby-Dublo enthusiasts since being fitted into this and other Two-Rail and Three-Rail models.

From the picture you can see how the demonstration run was recorded on a large display board. The left hand dial on the centre control panel showed the statute miles covered, while the right hand dial gave the speed which the train was travelling in scale miles per hour. Underneath the left hand panel a further indicator showed the scale miles covered and across the top of the board, graduated in five-mile units, was a scale running from

The impressive indicator board in Meccano Limited's London Showrooms, which marked the progress of the Co-Co's run. The Co-Co itself with a part of its enormous load is passing the indicator board.

0-100 showing in graphic form the train's situation at any one moment during its adventurous journey. On the left side panel of the indicator unit was stated the weight of the locomotive; the weight of the train; the distance to be covered; the average scale speed anticipated and the length of the track. The panel on the right recorded the length of the train; the number of track laps required to complete the journey; the number of armature revolutions during the trip; the number of wagons and the approximate time required to complete the run.

Members of the public were allowed to see this trial journey and they crowded into the Showroom to admire the stamina of this fine locomotive. Not many of them spotted that one extra wagon had been added to the total to make very sure that the Hornby-Dublo Electric Locomotive fulfilled its required task.