

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE*

With the publication of the new motion picture standards in the November, 1934, issue of the *JOURNAL*, and of the Standards Booklet, the Standards Committee, under the Chairmanship of M. C. Batsel, completed many of the problems in which it had been engaged.

At the beginning of 1935, L. A. Jones, *Engineering Vice-President*, appointed a new Standards Committee, composed of many of the old members and some new members. One special feature of this new Committee is that there is a Vice-Chairman on the Pacific Coast whose duties are to help correlate the opinions of the West Coast members with those of the East Coast members. J. A. Dubray was appointed to this Vice-Chairmanship. Before each meeting of the Standards Committee, an agenda is mailed to all the members, and those on the West Coast meet together at about the same time as those on the East Coast, and discuss the same problems. The minutes of both groups are sent to all the members.

The main items under consideration by the Committee at the present time are as follows:

(1) *Sprockets*.—The standards published in the Standards Booklet for 35-mm. sprockets apply only to projectors. We have no standards for cameras, sound apparatus, or printers. There is considerable doubt in the minds of most members of the Committee as to whether or not we are ready to standardize any of these items, or even whether it will ever be desirable to do so. The subject is being taken up with the manufacturers of these products to see what, if anything, should be done at the present time.

(2) *Guiding Methods in Cameras, Printers, Etc.*—The Standards Committee has already committed itself to edge guiding in the projector, but as yet no agreement has been reached as to the desirability of edge guiding in the camera or printer.

(3) *Screen Brightness*.—The Standards Committee is awaiting the report of the Committee on Projection Screen Brightness before taking any action upon the subject of standard screen brightness.

(4) *Reel Dimensions*.—The question of standardizing sizes and di-

* Presented at the Spring, 1935, Meeting at Hollywood, Calif.

mensions of reels was ably discussed in the report of the Sub-Committee on Exchange Practice at the Spring Meeting in 1934, and is now under consideration by the Standards Committee.

(5) *Photoelectric Cells*.—A set of standard specifications for photoelectric cells adopted by the British Standards Institution and published in January, 1935, is under consideration and is awaiting criticism by the Sound Committee.

Two of the standards that have already been officially adopted by the Society are still of great interest. One of these relates to the use of a single type of perforation for both negative and positive, and it is the hope of the Committee that the old type of perforation will be discarded for negative film as it has been for positive film. The other item, the standards for 16-mm. sound-film, is the source of considerable anxiety to those interested in the future of 16-mm. projection.

Through a misinterpretation of the drawing published in the *JOURNAL* of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, the Committee of the Deutsche Kinotechnische Gesellschaft recommended a film which they thought was a duplicate of ours but which actually had the sound-track upon the opposite side of the film from that of the American standard. Through a misinterpretation of their drawing, upon our part, this error was not noticed until some time had passed, with the result that two different camps have arisen, each favoring a different standard.

Last summer, at a conference called by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute (I. C. E.) of the League of Nations, the German proposal was adopted. All the above was explained in more detail by Mr. Batsel in the report of the Standards Committee for last Fall. Since then, a Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures, organized according to the procedure of the American Standards Association, has been formed. This Committee will undoubtedly approve the S. M. P. E. standards, and it is hoped that the American Standards Association, through the International Standards Association, can succeed this next summer in achieving international adoption of a single standard, through regular channels.

During the last week in April, 1935, an International Film Congress was held in Berlin and a sub-committee of this Congress was formed for further consideration of the 16-mm. sound-film standard. Although the Standards Committee has not yet seen the full report of this meeting, it apparently was in favor of upholding the decision of

the Stresa Conference. The subject will again be discussed at a conference of the International Standards Association to be held at Paris in July in conjunction with the International Photographic Congress, and the results of this conference will be of great interest to the industry.

Aside from these items, there are a few items upon which the Committee has not yet had a chance to act. These are:

- (1) A proposal for 8-mm. sound-film.
- (2) The possibility of supplying sets of densities of sputtered glass or other material for use as reference standards with densitometers.
- (3) The production of a 16-mm. test-film for use in testing 16-mm. sound projectors.

The general policy of the Standards Committee remains unchanged except that we shall endeavor to keep in closer touch with the European standardization groups and to promote a closer coöperation between the East Coast and West Coast members.

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