



The Quick Trains on the Great Western

When the Quick Trains were first started, the time fixed from London to Exeter, 193¾ miles, was five hours, and for some weeks this appeared to be as great a speed as could be performed with certainty and regularity. After a few months' practice, and without any change in the engines or loads, but merely by the results of experience in all engaged, it was found that the time could be much reduced, and without sensibly increasing the maximum speed, the whole journey was reduced by half an hour - making the time 4½ hours without difficulty, but certainly without apparently having many minutes to spare. A few weeks back, however, it became necessary in consequence of an injunction obtained against the company, to stop the train 10 minutes for refreshments at Swindon - the time bill was not at first altered, and after a week's trial, it was found that these ten minutes could be saved, besides the half-hour previously deducted, and the time-bid now shows that the journey to Exeter is performed within 4½ hours which includes stoppage of Swindon, and another five minutes at Bristol; and moreover, it is now evident, that without increasing the MAXIMUM speed attained by these trains, and consequently without affecting in any way the question of safety, but merely by the use of more powerful engines, which will be capable of MAINTAINING that maximum speed throughout, and under all circumstances, these trains will shortly run to Exeter in four hours.

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