INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION,
Washington, October 2, 1913.

To railway carriers:

The accompanying specifications for maps and profiles required by the Interstate Commerce Commission under authority of section 19a of the act to regulate commerce prescribe standards which, from date of issue, will apply to all maps and profiles which shall finally be filed with the Commission in connection with the valuation of railway properties.

Upon application to the Commission consideration will be given to permitting certain modifications in the specifications in their application to existing maps and profiles. No modification of the standards, however, will be permitted on—

(1) Maps and profiles of extensions, improvements or changes;
(2) Maps and profiles of existing railways where no such records now exist;
(3) Maps and profiles of existing railways where present records are so incomplete as to require, in the judgment of the Commission, new maps, and profiles.

It is not practicable to state at this time the extent to which present maps and profiles may be acceptable. This can only be determined in the case of each carrier by an examination of its records by the Commission. The carriers, however, are assured of the purpose of the Commission to demand only that amount of work to perfect existing maps and profiles as in its judgment is necessary to make them acceptable, but all maps and profiles for the permanent files of the Commission shall be on the standard size sheets and on cloth.

To enable the Commission to begin the valuation work promptly, the carriers shall furnish copies of those existing maps and profiles and other standard and special plans that will assist the Commission in its work. These existing maps, profiles, and other plans shall be collected together by the carriers at their general engineering offices for inspection by the Commission, and copies of such maps, profiles, and other plans which it determines useful for its purpose shall be furnished when requested.

Many standard and special plans of structures will be required by the Commission in connection with the valuation, from time to time,