

ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

4th September, 1953.

LOCOMOTIVE FIREBOXES.

HVM

Branch reports show that no steel fireboxes were used prior to 1941 except at Workington who, although stating no dates, claim 15/20 years life for steel boxes.

The substitution of steel for copper was a wartime expedient. Why and when did Workington use steel prior to 1939 ?

The actual life of copper versus steel is not the only criterion; staybolt and tube repairs and replacements are excessive in H. Fox & Company's steel fireboxes. Four new Yorkshire Engine Company's Locomotives have been re-stayed after 1-2 years, one of these has been re-tubed. One loco where steel replaced copper is being re-stayed after 3 years and Stockbridge Loco firebox is being replaced after 6 years.

The average life of copper fireboxes is 17 years for 15 recorded locos. The average life of tubes is up to 7 years and for staybolts 10 years.