

S. R. U. B. L. U. K.

Society for the Reinvigoration of Unremunerative Branch Lines
in THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BRANCH LINE REINVIGORATION SOCIETY

31st March, 1958.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

As this is the last circular to be issued before the Annual General Meeting, it is appropriate that I should give members some idea of what has happened during the last 12 months, and in doing so, try to pick out the highlights.

After last year's discouraging stagnation, it is very good to be able to report that, during 1957/58 SRUBLUK has had its best year since I have been on the Committee. The Society was fortunate, at its last Annual General Meeting, in being able to elect to the Committee four members who had not sat on it before, and whose energy and ability have helped to an enormous extent in bringing the Society back to the eminent position it held in its earlier days. It was also decided at last year's Annual General Meeting to increase the subscription to ten shillings and sixpence; the effects of this decision have been almost entirely for the good. Whilst it has caused us the loss of some members, it has not caused any really active member to leave our ranks, and it has given us the healthiest looking balance sheet we have ever had.

The new Committee did not take long in getting down to work; Mr. Judd completely revised the membership administration, and the actual campaigning of the Society was divided out among the other members on a geographical basis. While local support, in some cases, has been disappointing, the energy with which the Committee prosecuted their tasks has caused SRUBLUK to acquire a new recognition in the districts concerned. Particular mention must be made of the work done for lines in South Devon, where Mr. Mair's petition was received by the South-Western Transport Users Consultative Committee hearing appointed to consider the Ashburton-Totnes line, and also the work done in the North in conjunction with the newly formed and energetic North-Eastern Local Committee.

The Annual Public Meeting this year, while not so well attended as one would wish, was an enormous improvement over last year. At that meeting we heard Mr. Rowe of the Railway Development Association speak on "London Branch Lines", and Mr. White of the Festiniog Railway gave us a most entertaining account of the history of that Railway.

Press publicity during the past year has maintained its usual good standard in both local and national papers, the most noteworthy piece being that which appeared in the London "Star" on the day of the Public Meeting.

Our triumph of publicity this year, however, was of course our party to the Lewes-East Grinstead Line, when we were both accompanied on the journey and met on location at Newick and Chailey Station by B.B.C. Television teams. This took place on 23rd February, and was made the subject of a filmed feature in the programme "Tonight" on 27th February. The value of such publicity must be enormous. Once again our thanks must go to Mr. Judd,

whose organisation of an excursion booking facility to Newick and Chailey made the outing within the reach of everyone's pocket and assured a good attendance.

In closing may I add that this is the last time that I shall be writing "Secretary's Notes" as I shall not be standing for re-election to the office of Secretary. I have held it for two years, which I think is long enough, and I feel sure that my successor will find as much real pleasure in the job as I have done.

E.V. Davis

We have been requested to publish details of three special rail trips that are taking place in South-East England during April.

Saturday, 12th April: Trip from Robertsbridge to Tenterden Town by the Kent and East Sussex Railway; the Special Train will leave Robertsbridge at 2.30 p.m. after awaiting arrival of 12.20 p.m. Diesel from Charing Cross, and will proceed to Tenterden Town, stopping at the intermediate stations for photography and inspection. The train will return to Robertsbridge at 5.30 p.m. A party rate fare of 12/6d will be available from Charing Cross to Robertsbridge; the Special Trip will be 7/6d, including souvenir ticket and itinerary.

Saturday, 26th April: Trip from Hellingly to Hellingly Hospital on the Hellingly Hospital Electric Railway in open wagons. Depart Charing Cross at 12.20 p.m. via Tunbridge Wells Central and West, forward from Hellingly at 3.0 p.m., returning from Hellingly at 5.6 p.m. due Charing Cross at 8 p.m. Fare on the Hellingly Hospital Electric Railway - 2/-d - indemnities will be required to be signed at Hellingly.

The above two trips have been arranged by the Branch Lines Society, and remittances should be sent to I. Hurst, Esq., 25, Hillary Mount, Billericay, Essex. Further trips by the Branch Lines Society include -

- May 10th - Bishops Stortford to Braintree
- May 17th - Derwent Valley Light Railway, from York (B.R.)
- May 24th - Heacham to Burnham Market

Sunday, 20th April: The South Londoner will leave Victoria at 3.0 p.m. via Stewarts Lane Loco., Factory Jcn., Beckenham Jcn., Norwood Spur, Epsom Downs, Wimbledon, Merton Abbey, Beddington Lane, New Cross Gate, Old Kent Road Spur, and South London Line, arriving Victoria 7.22 p.m. The fare including itinerary and souvenir ticket will be 14/-, and the Society concerned is the Southern Counties Touring Society. Address for tickets:- 12, Upper Road, Wallington, Surrey.
