

*The Society for the Reinvigoration of Unremunerative Branch Lines
in the United Kingdom*

The Branch Line Reinvigoration Society

PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER, 1959.

BRYAN MORGAN and "THE END OF THE LINE" Bryan Morgan, the author of the book - "The End of the Line" describing the branch lines on the Continent (particularly the narrow gauge) country by country, is giving a talk to the members of the Wimbledon Model Railway Club, at 32 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19, at 8 pm on Wednesday, October 14th. Mr. Morgan anticipates that after his address the evening will develop into a soiree on the addenda and corrigenda for the above book. Mr. Pickering, the Secretary of the Wimbledon Model Railway Club has extended a warm invitation to anyone interested in the Continental Branch Lines - particularly the narrow gauge - to come along, and it is hoped that members of SRUPLUK will be able to support this invitation.

"THE WAY AHEAD FOR THE RAILWAYS" A talk on this subject, dealing with some problems - and some of the answers - will be given by Mr. W.G.Thorpe, Line Traffic Manager (Great Eastern) at 5:30 pm on Thursday, 15th October, 1959, in the Library of the Institute of Bankers, Lombard Street, E.C.3 (entrance in 1st Office Court), under the Chairmanship of Mr. T.M.Bland, T.D., D.L., Vice-Chairman of Barclays Bank Ltd. No tickets are required; and it is felt that members of SRUPLUK would wish to attend this lecture by Mr. Thorpe if at all possible.

Next Committee Meeting - Will members of the Committee please note that on account of the above address by Mr. Morgan on October 14th, the date of the Committee Meeting has been altered to October 21st.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - The Midland and Great Northern Line, once a great East Anglia - Midlands Route, is dead for all time! We are therefore commemorating its passing a special Christmas Card with an M. & G.N. train as the central theme.

All Railway Friends will no doubt like to have this lasting souvenir of a great line. Cards including envelopes are fourpence each, and orders of 12 or over will be sent postage paid.

Orders should be sent to - Mr. N.J.Watt, Watt's Folly, Arkesden,
Saffron Walden, Essex.

WORTH VALLEY LINE. Councillor Hammond, the Mayor of Keighley, is pressing for improved services on the "orth Valley Line. Will all members who can give Councillor Hammond support in this, please endeavour to do so.

Lambourn Valley Branch. We have received an account of a meeting held by local residents, at which a representative of British Railways was present. The annual loss on this branch is stated to be £19,464, but no analysis at all was given of how this figure was made up. A census was taken on two different days of the traffic between Lambourn and Newbury; the first one was by bus on a busy weekday, and the second was on a day of very light traffic in November last. It appears likely that the bus census was taken on Market Day, and the Rail census probably on early closing day, and being in November, in all probability when it was foggy! It was estimated at the meeting that if a diesel were used, the annual loss would be reduced by over £15,000 to £4,000; and if several intermediate stations were closed, the line would pay its way. It should be noted in passing, however, that the last departure from Newbury is at 5:20 pm; and that the 3:10 pm from Paddington fails to connect by only 6 minutes. In addition, there used to be a departure until the middle of last summer at 7:20 pm which connected with the 6:0 pm from Paddington; many business men (mainly first class) travelled down by this train, and it would appear a very short sighted policy to have withdrawn this particular service. The meeting ended with passing a resolution that it felt there was a good case for the retention of this route.

It is regretted that this copy of the Progress Report is so late in appearing, but it is hoped that now the election is over, members may be able to give better attention to it.

Chairman:- Mr. G.F.Manley, 42 Hillsborough Court, London, N.W.6,
Membership Secretary:- Mr. K.G.Judd, 63, Mayfield Avenue, Orpington, Kent.