

# S R U B L U K

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

### *The Branch Line Reinvigoration Society*

#### PROGRESS REPORT, DECEMBER, 1960.

PUBLIC MEETING. The next public meeting of the Society will take place in Room 11, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 27 January, 1961. The speaker will be a prominent member of SRUBLUK - Mr. L.J.Roll, who will deliver an address regarding his experiences whilst he was opposing the closure of the Midland and Great Northern Line - from local to ministerial level. A member of the Transport Users Consultative Committee has been invited, but it is not yet known whether a suitable representative will be able to accept our invitation. Although the meeting is taking place in Friends House, it is not, of course, connected with the Society of Friends. The Committee ask that all members who can possibly do so, to attend this meeting, as it will be a very good example of SRUBLUK in action.

#### NEWS OF THE BRANCH LINES.

NORWICH CITY - MELTON CONSTABLE - A 500 yards single track link is to be built between the former Wroxham - County School Line and the Norwich City - Melton Constable Line.

MIDLAND AND GREAT NORTHERN JOINT LINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY. We are informed that this Society had a successful inaugural meeting, and they hope to re-open the line from Aylsham(North) to Stalham (on the Broads), if not to Yarmouth Beach. However, SRUBLUK's information is that Yarmouth Beach station is being converted into a bus station, so it would appear the Preservation Society's plans in this respect are not likely to materialise.

LAINCURN - NEWURRY - No further news has been received, although it is believed that the threat of closure has not been withdrawn.

BUCKINGHAM - BAUBURY (BERTON STREET) - It is reported that this route has been traversed by the Transport Users Consultative Committee and by its Chairman - a professor; on that day there were only four people on the train. The Committee, especially the Professor, were very indignant, as they said that so much had been done for the line in providing a single-unit diesel railbus, two new halts, and

new sleeping; so there does not appear to be much hope for good local support for the line's retention.

HEIGLEY BRANCH. The appropriate T.U.C.C. were so impressed by the case put up by the local council that they referred it back to the B.T.C. so that they could have a talk with the local authorities to see if they could make the line pay, and so the decision to close the line was deferred. We understand that a further meeting has now taken place, and we are endeavouring to learn the outcome.

PASSENGER PROTECTION SOCIETY. This Society, to which reference has been made in a previous issue of the Progress Report, have been in touch with SRUBLUK with a view to out taking up membership and also co-operating with them. We are in touch with them, and we are asking about certain proposed closures, and enquiring what attitude they are adopting about them. The closures to which we referred, on which SRUBLUK has done a certain amount of work, are -

The lines around BEDFORD;  
HEREFORD TO ROSS-ON-WYE; and  
KONEYCOURNE - CHELTENHAM.

This latter line passes through Broadway, a considerable tourist attraction in the Cotswolds, where it is suggested by us that single-unit railcars should operate; the intermediate stations being converted to halts. However, this latter line is marked down on the latest Modernisation Plan for operation by Centralised Traffic Control.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH RAILWAYS SOCIETY. This Society (which acts in liaison as the SRUBLUK of Northern Ireland), has now changed its name to - NORTHERN IRELAND ROAD AND RAIL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. They have done this because there are now so few branch lines left in Northern Ireland, and they now propose to devote their energies to the co-ordination of road and rail transport.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The end of the year is now here, and in less than a month the subscriptions for 1960 will be due. Last year a number of members renewed in advance; it is hoped that members will follow this good practice again, and thereby make the task of the Membership Secretary easier in the new year.

Chairman:- Mr. G.F.Manley, 42 Hillsborough Court, London, N.W.6.  
Membership Secretary:- Mr. K.G.Judd, 60, Mayfield Avenue, Orpington, Kent.