

HORNBY RAILWAY COMPANY

By the Secretary

From Plain Track to Railway

THIS is the time of the year when many readers are looking forward to owning a Hornby-Dublo railway. If you are one of them, you have probably seen one or two display layouts, and possibly some of you may have watched Hornby-Dublo Trains running at a local Exhibition. It may seem to you a long way from the simple Train Set, with its oval layout, to the more or less extensive exhibition system, but there is no need to be discouraged. There is real fun in building up the layout by degrees, and this process of gradual development is the one that most Hornby-Dublo owners follow.

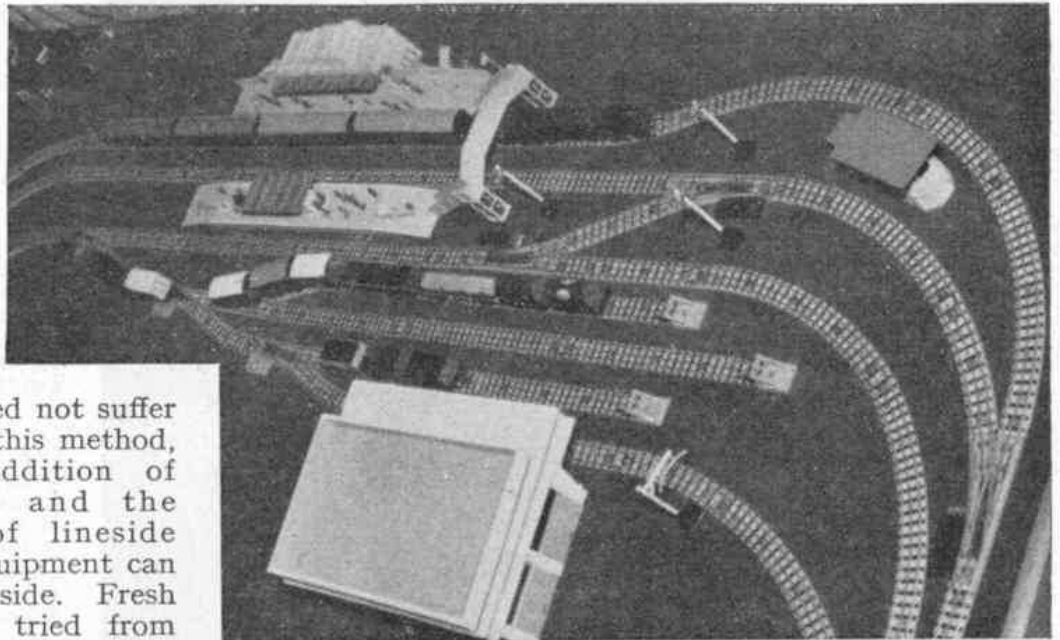
The layout need not suffer as the result of this method, because the addition of further track and the introduction of lineside buildings and equipment can go on side by side. Fresh layouts can be tried from time to time and this is one of the advantages of having a portable system. Sooner or later, however, you will reach the stage of having a favourite plan and by then probably the installation of it on a baseboard will be the aim. Sometimes of course a layout begins on a baseboard anyway. This certainly has advantages as long as the board is big enough to accommodate the system when it reaches the final stages of development.

You *could* run a railway without any lineside features at all. But these add so much to the realistic effect, and therefore to the proper enjoyment of train running, that you should have them if you can. But there is no need to worry if you can't, or don't, for some special reason. Even if the railway is confined to the track and the necessary railway equipment, it can still be very effective.

This is shown by the picture on this page,

which shows part of the railway of the Sayers family, of New Zealand, that was referred to last August. The railway is on a board, but the view gives exactly the same effect as would be obtained if the line were simply laid down on the floor, as many have to be. The track itself stands out well and the arrangement of the station with its three platform faces is easily seen.

Even when a layout is mounted on a



Just track, showing main lines, platform loops and sidings. This is part of the Hornby-Dublo layout of the Sayers family, New Zealand, that was referred to in the "M.M." last August.

board it may still be regarded as portable, because the Stations themselves may not be fixed, only the track remaining in place, screwed to the board, when the latter has to be put away after use. I have spoken about the screwing down of track before, but so many intending Hornby-Dublo owners ask about it that I may as well say again that the correct screws to use for attaching Hornby-Dublo Rails to a board are No. 2 roundheads. Screws $\frac{3}{8}$ in. long are usually satisfactory, if a plywood base is used, but to obtain better "bite" in composition boards, of which there are many types nowadays, screws $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long are recommended. Never attempt to drive a screw into the board without first boring a pilot hole, and be very sure that the screw is driven straight. Any that are lying over

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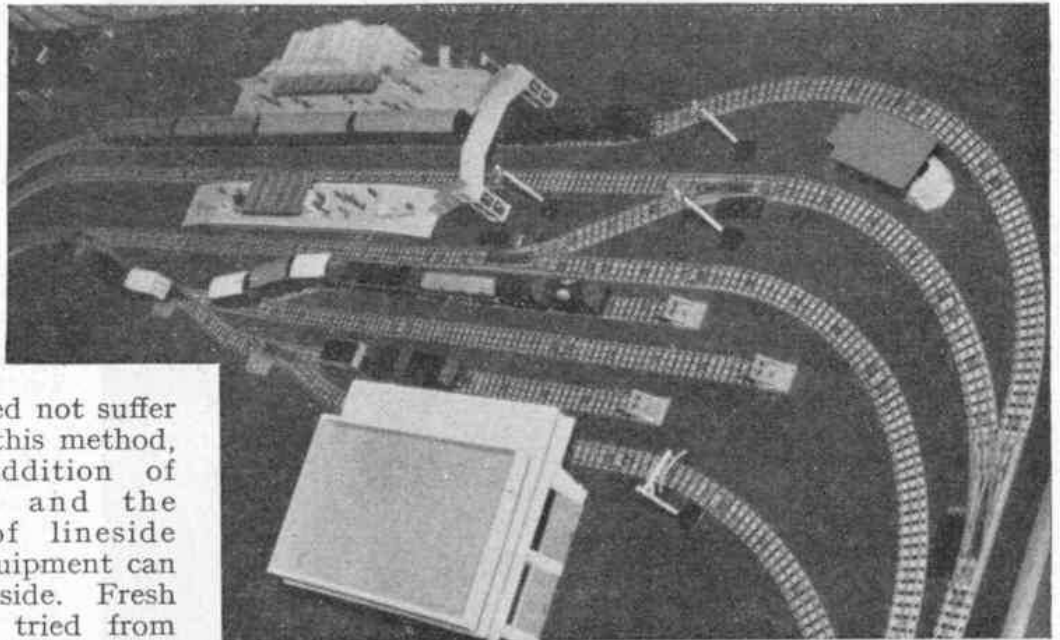
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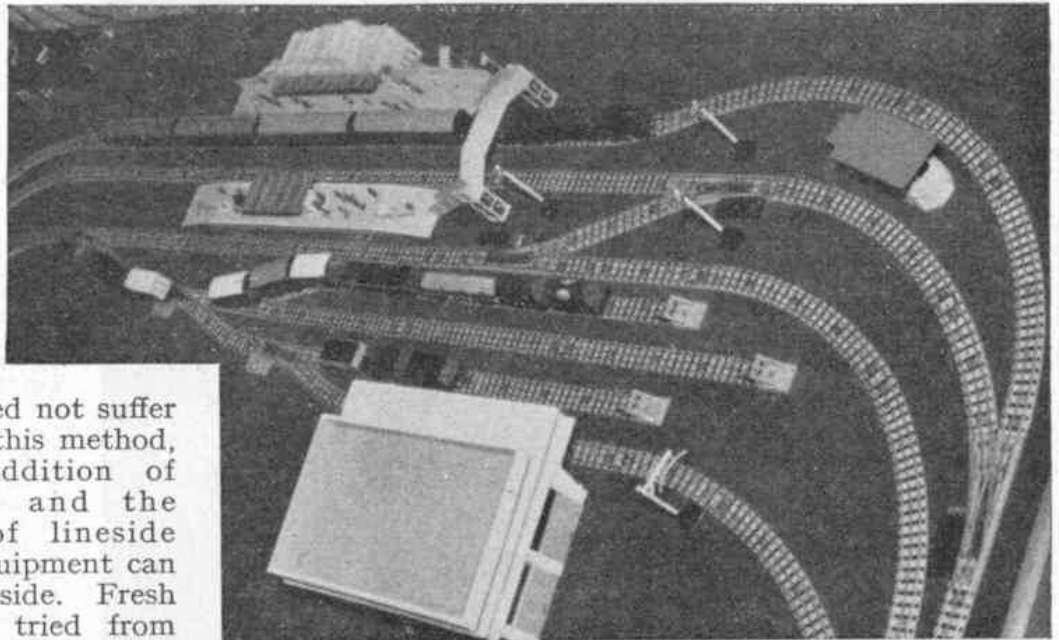
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