



"City of London" making a long run on a Hornby-Dublo Two-Rail layout with "The Caledonian". Engine and the train carry the appropriate name "boards".

Some Miscellaneous Topics

ABOUT this time of the year many Hornby-Dublo owners begin to consider how they can develop and improve their layouts during that time of the year that is sometimes considered as the miniature railway "season". I know that many miniature railwaymen do not recognise any season as such, but carry on with the good

HORNBY RAILWAY COMPANY

By the Secretary

work throughout the year. Whether this is so or not, developments for the coming months usually do receive some attention as the nights become longer. So it is no bad thing to stop train running for a bit and think out what the next moves are likely to be.

I know that the amount of space you have available, particularly if you have a base-board layout, will affect track and similar developments, but here and there it is often possible to make improvements to an existing system. That odd dead-end siding can perhaps be converted to a useful running loop. Similarly, sidings for holding rolling stock or for marshalling purposes can be installed or developed.

Apart from track developments and the addition of lineside items, station extensions and so on, it is well to consider the condition of the track itself and to make quite certain that all is ready for plenty of good running. That the track must be clean goes without saying, and owners of Two-Rail and Three-Rail systems necessarily devote a certain amount of time fairly regularly to this particular job. Some enthusiasts tend to develop their own pet methods of track cleaning, which may be more or less effective. Where cleaning is regular the rails themselves usually stay in reasonably good condition, even under heavy traffic, but sometimes it becomes necessary to use some cleaning medium for the treatment of sections where the accumulated railhead deposit tends to be obstinate. A point I should like to stress, and this is mentioned in the instructions booklet packed with all the more recent Hornby-Dublo Two-Rail Locomotives, is that one should avoid the use of the usual household grease solvents, some of which can affect the sleeper base of Two-Rail track. It is almost inevitable that a certain amount of any solvent employed on your cleaning rag will find its way on to your track base. For Two-Rail, methylated spirit is recommended and it should be applied on a non-fluffy type of duster.

If you are a Three-Rail owner, use the same type of duster, but employ something