

## STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA

**COPY**for WORKS SUPT.

MANAGER: BALLARAT BRANCH:

WORKS MANAGER: RICHMOND:

6th March, 1956.

TRAMWAY MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE, 1956:Agenda Items:

In reply to your letter of the 29th December, 1955 (DW/YCA), the following matters are submitted for inclusion in the agenda of the forthcoming conference:-

1. Tyres - Pony:

The number of pony wheels which develop "flats" and wear "out of round" have increased over the past year in the Ballarat system. Have other Branches experienced this type of wear, and if so, what is regarded as normal mileage between re-turning of pony tyres?

2. Tyres - Hardness: (280 Brinell)

To attain maximum mileage with minimum maintenance, it is suggested that with all future supplies the Brinell Hardness be clearly marked on the outside face of every tyre, by the Manufacturers.

3. Track Maintenance - Repairs to Rail Joints:

To expedite repairs to fractured joints and in the joining of different types of rail when sections of the track are being replaced, the possibilities of straight electric arc welding of the joints is being investigated.

From information available at the present time, it appears that the new "Portrex" low hydrogen electrode which supersedes "Ferex A" may have several distinct advantages over electrodes which have been available in the past. It is claimed that a first class rail joint can be made in less than 60 minutes. The time required by the present method of bolted and welded fish-plates varies between two (2) and seven (7) hours. We have eight (8) different known types of rails in the Ballarat system and the possibilities of straight welding of joints appears worthy of a trial. Have other Branches had any experience of the straight welding of rail joints?

4. General Maintenance - Reporting of Defects by Traffic Personnel:

Some difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the full co-operation of Driver/Conductors with the reporting of defects on the Defect Card provided in every tram. Have other Branches experienced this difficulty?

5. Trucks - General Appearance in Service:

Further to Item 5, 1955 Conference regarding the unsatisfactory appearance of undercarriages, due to encrustation of brake fillings, dirt and oil. In order to enhance the general appearance of tramcars in service, it



### 5. Trucks - General Appearance in Service:(Cont'd).

is suggested to fit, at moderate cost, an easily detachable board to single truck cars, attached to the body in line with existing short end side boards, and to the under-carriage of double bogie tram cars a similar type of attachment but constructed of mild steel.

Photographs

With regard to the annual trucking maintenance conference, it is suggested that, subject to general agreement, this year's conference should be held in Ballarat commencing on Monday, 8th May. This matter has been discussed with the Acting Branch Manager, Mr. Arnold, who has readily agreed to the proposal.

It would be suggested if items for the agenda could be submitted to this office not later than Friday, 4th May, in order to permit consideration of individual suggestions and the preparation of the final agenda, together with a summary of outstanding items, for forwarding to Melbourne by Friday, 12th April.

As in the past, when submitting items for the agenda, some detail of the information required should be given, to enable members to prepare specific data.

It would be appreciated if you could advise at your earliest convenience whether you concur with the proposed date and venue of the conference.

(SIGNED) R. F. MORRIS

BRANCH MANAGER.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA

For

W/S 8

RAM/DLH. 57/WO.62 7049

From WORKS MANAGER

7th February, 1957

To MANAGER, BALLARAT BRANCH  
(Similar letter sent Mgrs. Ball.,  
N/W/R., D.T.S.)

TRAMWAY MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE, 1957:

With regard to the annual tramway maintenance conference, it is suggested that, subject to general agreement, this year's conference should be held in Ballarat commencing on Monday, 6th May. This matter has been discussed with the Acting Branch Manager, Mr. Archibald, who has readily agreed to the proposal.

It would be helpful if items for the agenda could be submitted to this office not later than Friday, 22nd March, in order to permit consolidation of individual suggestions and the preparation of the final agenda, together with a summary of outstanding items, for forwarding to Branches by Friday, 12th April.

As in the past, when submitting items for the agenda, some detail of the information required should be given, to enable members to prepare specific data.

It would be appreciated if you could advise me at your earliest convenience whether you concur with the proposed date and venue of the conference.

(SIGNED) R. P. NORRIS

WORKS MANAGER.

W/M.

advised

8/1/57