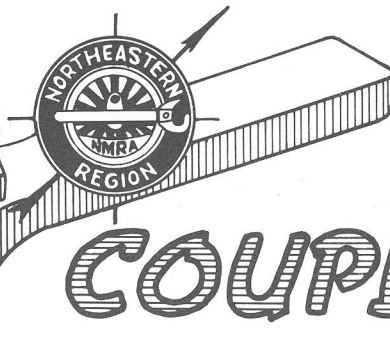


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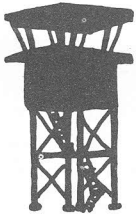


# COUPLER

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## THE DISPATCHER'S TOWER

During the past year I have spent many long and thoroughly enjoyable hours in the capacity of your president. As the senior officer of the Region I have a rather complete picture of the affairs and problems of the Region constantly at hand and I have generally liked the picture, liked the manner in which it has developed and also the final result at the end of the year. Yes, difficulties have appeared and have generally been solved, often on very short notice. But, in general, I feel that NER has advanced to a considerable degree. At this time I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Board and our Editor for their cooperation. They have given their wholehearted support, given generously of their personal time and have been more than willing to respond to emergencies. I want to thank the many individuals who have also cooperated with the Officers of the Region thus contributing to the benefit of all members.

In the "Winter" issue of 1955, I mentioned plans for the betterment of this paper. One of the items was mailing and this has proven to be the greatest difficulty. The Coupler was once actually lost in the Post Office; difficulty was experienced in centrally collecting the printed paper, the necessary address labels, stamps, etc., for the actual mailing which originated in widely separated places. This sort of thing was not only annoying but has been the major cause for the delays.

The Region has now established a central Mailing Office (described elsewhere in this issue) with a new, complete and up-to-date mailing list, new stencils and other equipment. Beginning with this issue our largest problem should be eliminated. While mentioning the Coupler, I again emphasize the crying need for reporters. If you, as an individual, have any source of news, please communicate with our Editor and tell him. You don't have to be able to "write", he will do that for you if needed. Simply send any news of NER, clubs, railroad activities, etc., but DO it. Have you ever realized that NER embraces something like 300,000 square miles of this land? Well it does! And no one can expect ONE person to keep in contact with such an area without assistance. Do volunteer to help! All that is entailed is a short letter occasionally.

Congratulations to the group in the Hartford, Conn. area who have gathered together and formed the "NUTMEG DIVISION" of NER. Charter members number 22 and I have been informed the membership is growing rapidly. Having been a charter member of the Metropolitan District (NER'S first district) and having known the enjoyment with that group, I am more than pleased to see this new group in Conn. organized and

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## JAMES E. SEE RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

### 136 Attend Concord Meet

Perfect weather greeted the 136 members and friends gathered for the 10th annual convention of the Northeastern Region held in Concord, New Hampshire the weekend of October 5, 1956.

After a six-hour fan trip on the Claremont and Concord Railroad, a banquet was held at the Hotel Eagle with Mr. Sam Pinsly, President of the Claremont and Concord Railroad, as speaker.

As part of the Saturday evening program slides were shown by attending members -- this is a new feature for the convention.

On Sunday morning President James E. See called the business meeting to order. After the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved, Irwin Lloyd reported on membership promotion which has reached a new high for the Region at 609 members.

President See reported that the bell voted at the Burlington Convention had been delivered to the New York office of the British and Irish Railways who, after taking publicity pictures, promised to deliver the bell to the British Region in time for their October Convention. Also announced was the establishment of a new mailing center. The Board of Directors appointed Wayne Roundy to have charge of the office for the first year. A report on the Trenton Convention was given by Charles Welling, convention coordinator, who also announced that a group from Springfield, Mass. had consented to handle the spring convention and that bids for the fall convention were in order.

The resolution, tabled at Trenton, concerning a change in the NMRA constitution to allow petitions or referendum was discussed. It was brought out that such a resolution had been presented to the Board of Trustees meeting in St. Paul and it was being studied by a committee. A motion by Wayne Roundy, seconded by Harry Towers to again table the resolution was passed by a 30 to 7 vote.

The motion presented at Burlington, Vermont to limit the terms of the Directors was discussed. It was moved by Harry Towers, seconded by Nelson Gates to approve the proposed amendment. After considerable discussion the proposed amendment was put to a vote and it was defeated unanimously.

T.K. Salmon offered the following motion: That the President appoint a committee of the directors to consider better election procedure in order to obtain a greater percentage of our NER members taking part in the voting for directors and the committee to report at the Spring meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Diaz and was passed with but one nay.

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