

"DUDBRIDGE DONKEY"

TRAIN SUSPENDED FOR FIRST TIME

FUEL shortages have made it necessary to discontinue (temporarily) several train services throughout the country, and one of those which will be affected will be the Stonehouse-Nailsworth-Stroud branch of the L.M.S.—the train affectionately known to its users as the "Dudbridge Donkey."

Announcing this alteration, the L.M.S. Divisional Superintendent explains that severe cuts have been made necessary, and so the train, at present little used except by passengers making connection with the main line trains, had to be stopped. For the purpose the stations at Faversham, Dudbridge, Stroud, Nailsworth, Woodchester, will not open for the issue of passenger tickets after Saturday June 14th, although all of these, excepting Stroud, will be available for the parcels and goods traffic. Stroud's parcels traffic will be dealt with by the G.W.R.

Opened Since 1867.

This is the first time that the branch has had to close down in its 80 years existence, except when under extreme conditions it was found that the line could not be kept open. During the past winter it was blocked by snow and again by flood-water, but it has never before suffered such a serious 'cut.' The Nailsworth branch has been open since February 1st, 1867, and the Stroud branch, cut later, since May 22nd, 1886.

It is hoped, however, that when the present crisis is passed the line will re-open. In the meantime bus services will be employed to enable passengers from the district to meet the main Bristol, Gloucester, and North line trains at Stonehouse.

OVER "THE MOST COSTLY MILE"—

Last Train Will Run Next Week

THE departure of the 8.4 p.m. train from Stroud L.M.S. station on Saturday of next week will mark another stage in the history of transport in the Stroud district. It will be the last train to leave Stroud before the suspension of all passenger services on the local branch lines from Stonehouse to Stroud and Nailsworth.

The decision has been made on the Government's instruction for a reduction in passenger mileage under the fuel economy campaign and although it is not stated to be a permanent suspension we are informed that it will be for "at least during the summer months."

So when the new time tables are posted on June 16th for the first time since the branch from the main line at Stonehouse was opened some eighty years ago, the local services will carry the words "SUSPENDED."