

THE HOTBOX DISASTER

The little train stoped, smoke coming from one of the boxvans axleboxes. Worse still, the Wagon Label was marked PERISHABLE. It was the weekly vegetable output from four local farms, for sale in a nearby town's weekly market, and the farmers' income for a week or two.

The Driver looked at the smoking axlebox and said 'I'm going to RED CARD for the wagon and shunt it into a siding for the Carriage and Wagon to fix. IT can go no further. Those poor Farmers sighed the GUARD, WITH NO money comming in if their veg does not get to market. And the Townsfolk won't have any veg," cried the Fireman.

Suddamly the Guard shouted "We can get the veg to market. The boxvan next to the veg van only has Housefurniture in it. If we swop the contents of each van into the other, then the veg can go on to the market. All it wil do is delay the Furniture for a day or two.

and so for the next 45 minutes the traincrew and a couple of bemused passers by swoped over the contents of the two boxvans. The veg arived at market, just a little late, but was soon sold. However at the Goods Yard the Guard had the difficult task of explaining how two boxvans had, mid-journey exchanged contents.

As told by Bill Wiggly, a Crossing KEEPER in the 1950s.

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