Modern Cane Railways of Queensland

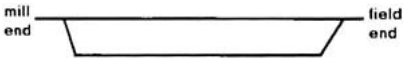
Carl Millington's presentation at the Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention, 2004

CaneSIG: http://www.zelmeroz.com/canesig

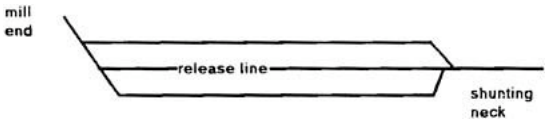
Part 7: Sidings

There are many types of sidings to be found throughout the sugar railways of Queensland. The lengths of siding depend on their geographical location, space that is available and what type of transporters -- Infielders or Haulouts (piggybacks) will be using the siding. A brief description is given below of the more common types to be found.

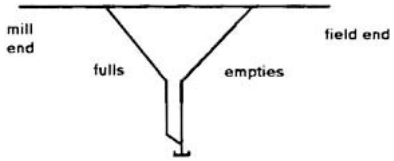
Siding A: This siding is used by either haulouts or infield loaders. It may consist of one or two loops. Empty bins are delivered into the field end and collected from the mill end. Likewise the transporters start loading or dumping from the mill end. This is the most common type of siding to be found throughout all mill tramway systems. Where this type of siding is found at the end of a branch, loco crews use a rope connected between the loco and bins to shunt them into the siding. This type of shunting is called "rope shunting". It is interesting to note that several mills, in order to save a couple of dollars, have removed the non-mill end set of points, thus shunting at these sidings now take longer to shunt.



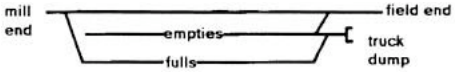
Siding B: This siding is used by either haulouts or infield loaders and is found at the end of a branch. This siding works in the same way as siding A, but has an extra line down the middle to allow locomotives to "escape" and a shunting neck.



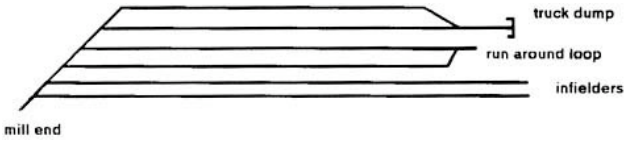
Siding C: This siding is used by bin-carrying trucks and haulouts. Empty bins are shunted into the empty bin leg of the angle on the out-bound run and the fulls collected from the full bin leg of the angle on the return run.



Siding D: This siding is used by bin-carrying trucks. Empty bins are shunted into the middle road, which is on a slight rise, so the bins will roll down onto the haul-out vehicle. Full bins are rolled off the haul-out vehicle into the full line, which is lower than the main line.



Siding E: This arrangement is known as a 'Complex' or 'Pad'. All types of bining-out equipment are used here. The sidings at the top are used by bin-carrying trucks while the ones on the bottom are used by either infielders or haulouts. A locomotive run around the loop is provided. This type of siding arrangement is common at the end of branches but can be found part way along some lines. Some pads only cater for the bin carrying trucks.



Truck/tractor dump on a lightly used line near Mackay. The blue box on the post is for bin tickets. Lynn Zelmer, photographer.

Tractor/truck dump on a line near Mackay clearly showing the different line elevations and grades. Lynn Zelmer, photographer.

Tractor-pulled end-tipping, side-delivery, in-field transporter unloading at rail transfer point, Mackay area. 22 Aug 2005, Jonathan Bayliss photographer.

Unloading at 'Strathdees' automated truck dump, Millaquin Mill, 2007. Lynn Zelmer, photographer.