



Welcome Missabe Northern Railway Recruits!



We are pleased to have you join and supplement our crews as we work to handle increased demand for iron ore to make steel. Many of you already know the Missabe Northern is the most important railroad for bringing iron ore to the great steel mills of America as we meet our President's call to become the arsenal of democracy. With your help, we must and we will out produce our enemies in ships, planes, tanks, and guns to defend freedom. We are also handling increasing amounts of grain and other products for export down the Great Lakes to our great friend and ally across the Atlantic, Britain.

Enlistment recruiting for defense is already reducing our ranks while we are being asked to deliver more tonnage than ever. To meet this challenge, we have already negotiated a dispensation from the ICC to control train movements with a new form of track authority we call Telephone Warrants. This is in part because even if there was time to install signaling systems, the technical skills needed are already being recruited for priority military work.

Some of you travelling here by time machine may think Telephone Warrants resemble something called Track Warrants. I don't know about that, but I do know we had to find a way to improve efficiency in coordinating train movements with fewer people than required for written train orders and less writing to reduce training time. We can envision that this would work even more efficiently if we could put radios on engines and cabooses to communicate directly with dispatchers, but the War Production Board is consuming all radio production for allocation amongst all the branches of the armed services. So we work with what we already have – telephones.

There isn't much time for training, so some of you will be learning on the job. Fortunately, others of you have been here before for seasonal work. I assure you our crews are anxious to help all of you and answer your questions, so please avail yourselves of their experience. They realize the quicker you are productive, the sooner they can resume their duties to meet our great challenge.

Please begin or refresh your orientation by reading the attached document. Besides guidelines on our work procedures, it includes maps and a diagram of the railroad along with a listing of the types of jobs at various locations on the railroad.

We all must seek as a team to safely produce our maximum effort, er, I mean, fun.

Jeff Otto, President and Chief Engineer
Missabe Northern Railway