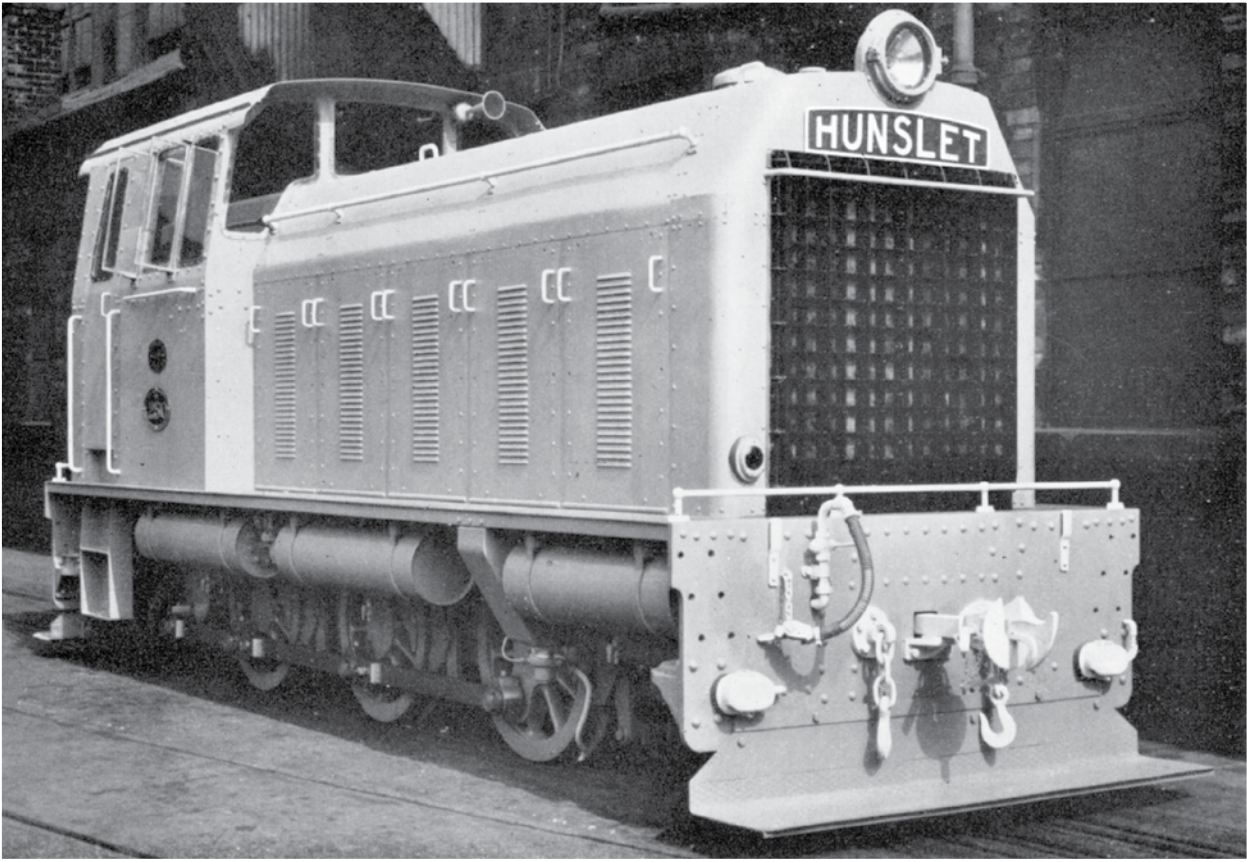


Hunslet Works Nos. 4528-4537 & 4697-4701



NEW TO: New Zealand Railways, 1954-1958 (15 locomotives). NZR CLASSIFICATION & RUNNING NUMBERS: Dsa 250-264 (works nos. 4528-4537, 4697-4701). LAST USED IN REGULAR SERVICE: 1987 (ordinary operations), 2002 (Kingston Flyer). STATUS: Dsa's 252, 253 & 262 preserved operational or near operational. Dsa's 256 & 261 stored and/or under long-term overhaul.

SPECIFICATIONS AS BUILT, NOS. 250-258 (WORKS NOS. 4528-4536). Wheel arrangement: 0-6-ODM. Gauge: 3' 6". Weight: 30 tons. Length: 26' 8³/₄". Driving wheel diameter: 39³/₄". Prime mover: 250 bhp National M4AA6. Transmission: Hunslet 4-speed constant mesh gearbox with Hunslet final drive.

SPECIFICATIONS AS BUILT, NOS 259-264 (WORKS NOS. 4528-4536). Wheel arrangement: 0-6-ODH. Gauge: 3' 6". Weight: 31¹/₄ tons. Length: 26' 8³/₄". Driving wheel diameter: 39³/₄". Prime mover: 250 bhp National M4AA6. Transmission: Hunslet 4-speed hydraulic transmission with Hunslet final drive.

FINAL SPECIFICATIONS. Wheel arrangement: 0-6-ODH. Gauge: 3' 6". Weight: 30³/₄ tons. Length: 26' 8³/₄". Driving wheel diameter: 39³/₄". Prime mover: 315 bhp Caterpillar D343T. Transmission: Twin Disc CF115 torque converter with Self Changing Gears RF11 final drive.

Following the successful introduction of four Ds class 0-6-0DM shunters in October 1950 NZR received government approval to purchase 35 additional similar locomotives of a generally similar design. Tenders were called, allowing for a range of locomotive weights and power outputs. It was soon clear that the funding was only sufficient to purchase 27 locomotives. These were ordered from Drewry, and included a mix of 204 and 260 bhp variants.

NZR quickly sought and obtained funding for twenty additional locomotives. However, the Department believed that Drewry's order book was too full to accommodate the full quantity without generating significant delays. Just ten more 260 bhp locomotives

Above. **A builder's photograph of Dsa 250. This locomotive is also illustrated at the end of its life on page 24.** Steve Palmano collection.