

Shed staff on Hornby-Dublo railway help to prepare "Duchess of Montrose" for duty. The Water Crane at the line-side is a simple, but effective, feature.

About Cranes and Other Things

By "The Engineer"

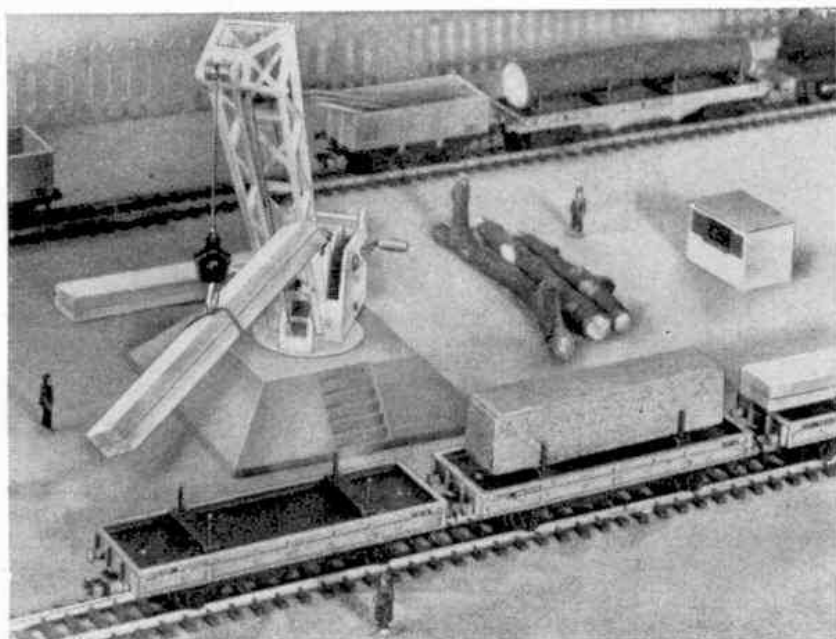
THE picture above follows up one or two of the schemes that I mentioned last month, as it shows a Hornby-Dublo *Duchess of Montrose* being attended to by shed staff. The Water Crane by it is essential on engine shed layouts, and quite suitable for placing at platform ends and in yards, anywhere in fact where engines are liable to stand. Sometimes I have seen Water Cranes rather unhappily placed on layouts, so this is a point that you might bear in mind. On permanent layouts lineside items of this kind can become quite dusty and this does not look good. From time to time the careful owner goes cleaning up here and there and, in the case of the Water Crane, making sure that the swivelling arm at the top of the column lies correctly parallel with the track.

I wonder how many of you have tried the scheme illustrated on these pages some years ago of cutting short the flexible pipe or "bag", as enginemen call it, so that it just fits over the tank of a locomotive, which can thus appear to take water? I have noticed in several places that this very thing has been done in actual practice, apparently in order

to make it easier for the pipe to be led to the filler of modern tenders, which in many cases is quite high up.

The Water Crane can be regarded as what we may term "Out-d o o r Machinery".

This particular Department of a real railway looks after other types of cranes as well, in particular those located in goods yards and elsewhere for handling an amazing variety of bulky or heavy items carried by rail. In the Dinky Supertoys range we have a very effective Goods Yard Crane, No. 973. This is really intended for Hornby Gauge 0 purposes, but it is not unreasonable to use it in Hornby-Dublo as cranes vary in size and capacity—and it is a nice model anyway. It is actually



A Goods Yard Crane (Dinky Supertoys No. 973) is being used here to load timber on the Hornby-Dublo Double Bolster Wagon.