

# Californian Boy Helps His Mother

## by Inventing New Wool-winder

THE story of invention is always interesting reading. Every boy likes to read of the early electrical experiments of Benjamin Franklin, or of how young Watt, in watching the kettle boil, was led to think of the power of steam and the possibility of a steam engine. In inventing models many a Meccano boy does something that has never been done before, or improves on an existing idea. Boys who do either the one or the other are real inventors, as much so as Benjamin Franklin or James Watt.

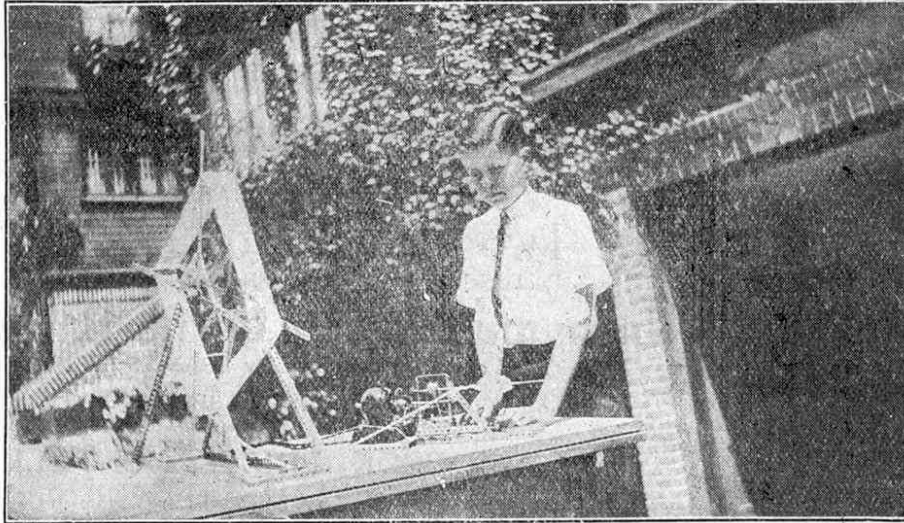
Bartlett Stephens, who lives in San Francisco, is a boy of this type. This bright Meccano boy, who is just fourteen years of age, had often noticed the amount of labour and time expended by his mother in winding

skeins of wool. With the true spirit of invention, he set about applying his knowledge of Meccano to constructing a mechanical method of winding. As

members of the family, whose job it was to hold the skein whilst mother wound off the wool!

Our illustration shows Bartlett with his model, which consists of a collapsible frame, some twenty-six inches in height. This carries the skeins of wool, while a guider directs the worsted to a rod, supported in a frame and geared to an electric motor. On the motor being started up, the rod commences to wind the wool into a ball, pulling it off the skein which it is able to do because the frame rotates.

When wound the ball of wool is easily removed from the rod and a little care and manipulation during the process ensures the firm round ball, that our mothers insist on having.



Master B. Stephens, of San Francisco, with the Meccano Wool-winder that he has invented

a result, he evolved an appliance that does away with many tedious hours for

the firm round ball, that our mothers insist on having.

## What is the first principle of building construction?

IT does not matter how carefully a building is planned or how beautifully it is built; the skill of the finest craftsmen in the world may be lavished on it—all will be in vain unless the foundations are sound.

All over the world there are splendid buildings, which are cracking and collapsing because the foundations are giving way.

You yourself are rather like a building—it does not matter how clever you are with your brains or your hands. It does not matter how strongly you feel you will be able to do great things when you are grown up, unless your foundations are sound, unless you have *good health*, you will collapse.

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