

The Future of the M.M.

The next issue of the *Meccano Magazine* will be ready on November 15th, and for the present it will be published bi-monthly. If you are not already a subscriber, you should either send in your subscription at once, or instruct your dealer to reserve a copy of each issue for you.

A Message from France.

I have received a letter from the Editor of the *Meccano Magazine* in Paris, in which he tells me that a number of French Meccano boys have expressed a desire to correspond with English Meccano boys on Meccano topics. Will any of my readers who would like to receive letters from a French boy and reply to them, communicate with me. All correspondence of this kind must be conducted on the lines of the Guild Correspondence Club, announced by the Secretary in this issue.

The Editor

On Guilds

(Continued.)

The Guild members banded themselves together and used all their great influence and power to resist the Bill, but although they managed to retain a great many of their rights and privileges from a commercial and social point of view, their colleges, churches and chapels were seized and confiscated.

The Guilds never recovered. The former strict rules were gradually relaxed, and little by little unscrupulous men won their way to power. They altered everything completely, and soon the Guilds became leagues or companies of employers and capitalists, who used them for grinding down the poor workmen and townspeople for their own profit. Efforts were made in Elizabeth's reign to restore the Guilds to their former purity of purpose, but they were of no avail, and with the growth of civilization it is doubtful if they can ever exist again as they did hundreds of years ago.

But although the old ideal of the Guild is dead, the spirit that animated it is as alive to-day as ever.

Members will be interested to know that in choosing the name "Meccano Guild," the idea of starting a movement based on the splendid ideals and traditions of the old Guilds was foremost in our minds, and in assisting to build up a spirit of good fellowship and comradeship they will be creating friendships and happy times that will endure throughout their lives.

(Concluded.)

Life Story of Meccano

BY FRANK HORNBY.

(Continued.)

Great skill is required in setting up these machines in the first place; and even after they are set up they have to be continually watched and fine adjustments made to ensure accurate production.

There are many machines in this department which are exceedingly fascinating to watch. The chain-making machine, for instance, which makes our sprocket chain, through which a plain wire is passed at one end whilst at the other a continuous length of completed chain emerges, is a most complicated and efficient machine which seems to be almost human.

Then there is the special machine for drilling the holes in our couplings. They are all drilled in one operation and it is exceedingly interesting to see the girl operating the handle and all the drills coming together on the coupling at the same time. You can imagine the time saved in using a machine of this type as compared with the usual way of drilling a hole at a time.

Another useful and ingenious machine is the one which we use for automatically assembling the setscrews into wheels.

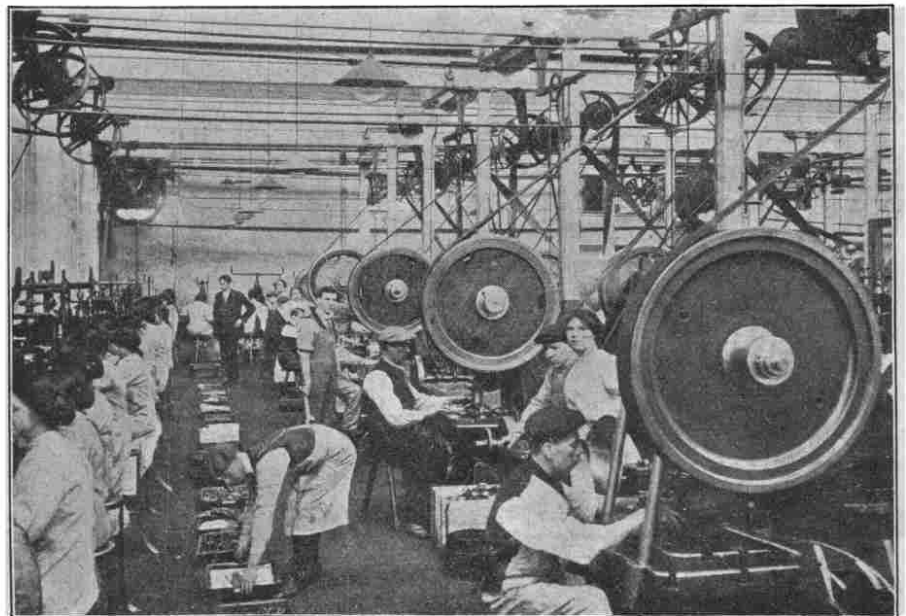
I think, however, that the machines which would interest you most are those which are used for making our bolts. The bolts themselves are made from

steel rod which comes to us in huge coils. The end of the rod is fed into the machine, which automatically cuts it off at the required length and puts the head of the bolt on it. These machines work at a tremendous pace and give a production of thousands of gross each per week. From every ton of wire which is fed into them, we receive a ton of bolts, there being absolutely no waste of any kind.

The next step in the process is cutting the nick in the head. The bolts are poured into the large hopper of a nicking machine and the machine itself sorts them into perfect order, one behind the other, and they go sliding down a groove which conveys them to a kind of circular saw which cuts the nick, after which, by a little turn of the machine, they are thrown into a container ready for the next process.

The operator then conveys them to another machine which rolls the thread on them. For this process they are again poured into a hopper and by the same mechanism as in the nicking machine they are arranged one behind the other, conveyed down a groove, and to that part of the machine which rolls the thread on them, one by one, as rapidly as you can count. These are the busiest machines you ever saw. They work with a will all day long, producing many, many millions of bolts during the year, exactly uniform in size and shape.

(To be continued.)



View of the Press Dept., Meccano Ltd.