



XXI.—REALISTIC LOADS FOR GOODS TRAINS

THE keen owner of a miniature railway is always striving to extend his layout on the most realistic lines. To do this thoroughly and in an all-round manner may require more time than the enthusiast has at his disposal, and in that case it may be wise to concentrate on one branch of railway operation.

The choice of the direction in which extension may be made depends entirely on the tastes of the owner. To some the prospect of building up a layout resembling in miniature one of our great railway systems makes a special appeal, and on it they run complete series of passenger trains, including crack expresses hauled by replicas of famous locomotives. Another direction that offers great scope for railway work of an intensely realistic character is the running of goods trains, for these provide an astonishing variety both in regard to loads and operation.

To the enthusiast the running of goods trains is quite as interesting and indeed as exciting as that of crack passenger expresses. This is particularly the case when on his own layout he organises goods traffic in a completely realistic manner. This means that he is not content with merely piling a few miscellaneous articles into the goods wagons that he possesses, but endeavours to reproduce actual railway conditions, even to the extent of employing miniature motor vans and lorries to bring loads to the goods yards, and to remove them from storage warehouses on arrival at their destination. He derives the greatest enjoyment from ensuring return loads for as many wagons as possible—a very important point in real railway working—and in making the loads themselves appear completely realistic.

When we consider the enormous variety of goods that railwaymen are called upon to handle we realise the immense amount of fun that may be obtained by trying to reproduce correct working. Heavy trains are seen composed entirely of open wagons laden with coal, coke,

sand, stone and lime among other products. In addition, iron and steel, heavy machinery, bricks, paving stones, chemicals and countless other commodities are carried on our railways, and the term "general merchandise" also covers an immense number of products from crates of china and bicycles to foodstuffs.

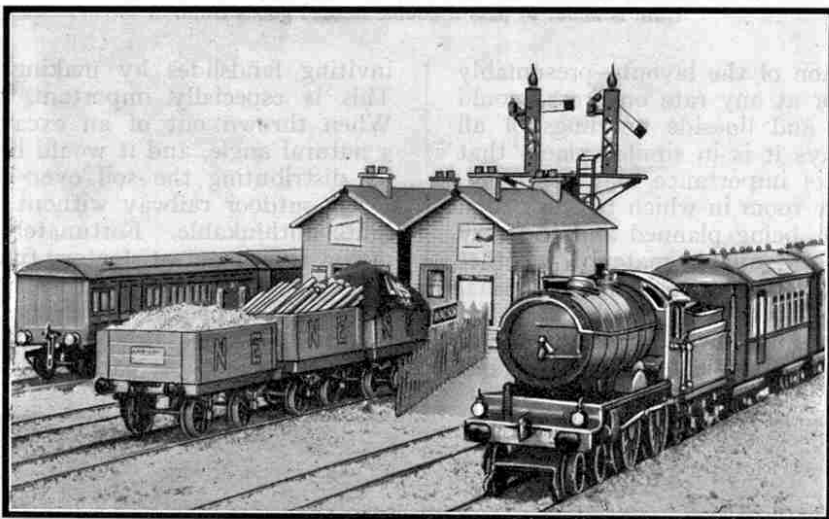
Many of these are carried in special vans. For instance, foodstuffs are invariably loaded in closed vehicles of special construction. Similarly heavy engineering products are carried on well wagons, and in many cases are transported under special conditions because they may exceed ordinary loading gauge. The Hornby Series of goods vehicles enables miniature loads of this kind to be transported and enthusiasts will have little difficulty in imitating this aspect of railway work.

The transport of machinery may be made particularly interesting by em-

ploying Meccano models as loads. Very little difficulty should be experienced in building representations of stationary engines, or of generators, transformers and other electrical machinery of size suitable for loading on the Hornby Trolley Wagon. Small models that would be excellent for this purpose are included in the Instruction Manuals, and accounts of others appear from time to time in the pages of the "M.M."

It is not absolutely necessary to make them so small that they may be carried along with other goods. In fact, miniature railway owners who are in search of a little excitement may deliberately build models that slightly exceed the loading gauge of their railways and set themselves the task of transporting them over a section of their layout.

In real railway practice loads of this kind usually are transported on Sundays, when other traffic is at a minimum. The route is carefully chosen in order to ensure the least disturbance possible. When necessary tracks may be moved to one side, or even sunk several



The Hornby "Queen of Scots" Pullman Express passing a wayside station. In the siding are goods wagons awaiting the arrival of a stopping goods train. They are loaded in the manner described in the accompanying article.