

its site. Among these, Colchester, Ipswich, Leiston, Thetford, Grantham, Lincoln and Gainsborough are the chief. Of the five leading firms in this district the senior position is claimed by Charles Burrell & Sons¹ of Thetford, in Norfolk, who date their foundation from 1770. Richard Garrett & Sons¹ of Leiston, in Suffolk, and Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies of Ipswich were founded in 1778, eight years later. Closely following come Ransomes & Rapier of Ipswich, and Davey Paxman¹ & Co. of Colchester. The aggregate capital of these five firms is very large, and they employ collectively many thousands of workers.

During a period stretching so far back as 1770 it may be supposed that the operations of these concerns have undergone great modifications. The first three, however, still remain pre-eminently agricultural engineers, making everything from the simple garden rake to the most costly traction machine. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies are credited with the construction of the first steam threshing-machine ever exhibited. Charles Burrell & Sons possess a similar distinction in the combined threshing and dressing machine, and have attained a high reputation through the use of their patents relating to traction engines and road locomotives, compound and spring mounted. Richard Garrett & Sons, Ltd., whose works cover nearly thirty acres and are capable of employing 2,000 hands, were the inventors of the first straw and refuse-burning portable engines, and, in co-operation with J. D. Ellis of Sheffield, of the Garrett-Ellis reversible steel-beater bar. Of the three firms, Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, with a capital of well over £1,000,000, have, perhaps, the widest range of manufacture. Their Orwell Works, in the Eastern Counties, with their subsidiary works occupy forty acres and employ 3,000 men and boys. Reavell & Co., who specialise in air compressors and vacuum plant, were established in

¹ Now amalgamated with Agricultural & General Engineers, Ltd.