

CHAPTER VIII

CONVEYORS AND ELEVATORS.

CONVEYORS present many most admirable features for the transport of goods from one place to another within moderate limits, provided the supply is sufficient to keep the appliance usefully working—that is to say, in general terms, when the quantity dealt with exceeds ten tons per hour.

The drawback of the application of the system to quay shed work is the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of maintaining a constant succession of packages along the same route, and the collateral necessity for a great number of independent conveyors to serve different portions of a shed. A scheme proposed by Mr. Cecil Bentham to overcome this difficulty, by means of a circular route, has already been alluded to. Whether such a scheme is practically realisable is, of course, a matter largely dependent on a number of local circumstances, into which it would be impossible to enter here. In this section we merely propose to review the general conditions governing the use of conveyors in quay sheds. The adaptation of conveyors to coal and bulk grain handling is discussed in later chapters.

TYPES OF CONVEYORS.

In cases where a system of conveyors is practicable, there is a wide range of choice in regard to the type of appliance. There are steel, or wooden, slat conveyors and steel band or apron conveyors for heavy goods, and canvas, jute, rubber, and cotton belting for lighter articles. For the class of goods generally dealt with in transit sheds, the