

Man with a new idea brought firm to Stroud

THE mechanical handling of materials is for many industries the key to lower production costs and increased efficiency, and it is not surprising that the genius of the Redler system has been internationally acclaimed.

And the fact that the inventor chose to establish his

by
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factories at Dudbridge, Stroud, was a tribute to the suitability of the area for that type of engineering.

The firms which produce the equipment are Redler Conveyors Ltd., of Dudbridge Works, and Conveyors (Readybuilt) Ltd., of Cainscross Works, associated companies, employing over 370 people.

The system was invented by the late Mr. Arnold Redler, whose family owned flour mills in Devon and Somerset.

He took over Severn Mills, Sharpness, in the early part of the century and about 1924 patented an almost revolutionary conveyor, which aroused great interest at the Empire Exhibition, Wembley, in the same year.

Mr. Redler started his business and the conveyors were manufactured in the maintenance shops of his Sharpness flour mill. He then concentrated wholly on conveyors and moved to Stroud in 1934.

Lighter industries

The Redler Conveyor Company continued to develop and in 1935, he founded the firm of Conveyors (Readybuilt) Ltd. to cater for lighter industries with small quantities to be handled.

At different periods Mr. Redler relinquished his interest in both companies to the Public Holding Company, Redler Industries Ltd., of which both firms now operate as manufacturing subsidiaries. Mr. Redler died on December 18, 1953.

For some time Redler Conveyors produced plant for heavier industries in which large quantities have to be



This is a section of the project drawing office.

handled and Conveyors (Readybuilt) Ltd. catered generally for the lighter industries.

Over the past two and a half years production of both companies has to a large extent been integrated.

The system is simple in operation, yet extremely effective. It works on the principle that powdered, granular or flaky materials can be made to flow like liquid through totally enclosed casings, by moving a chain and flights with the material.

When the chain is moved forward, the mass moves with it.

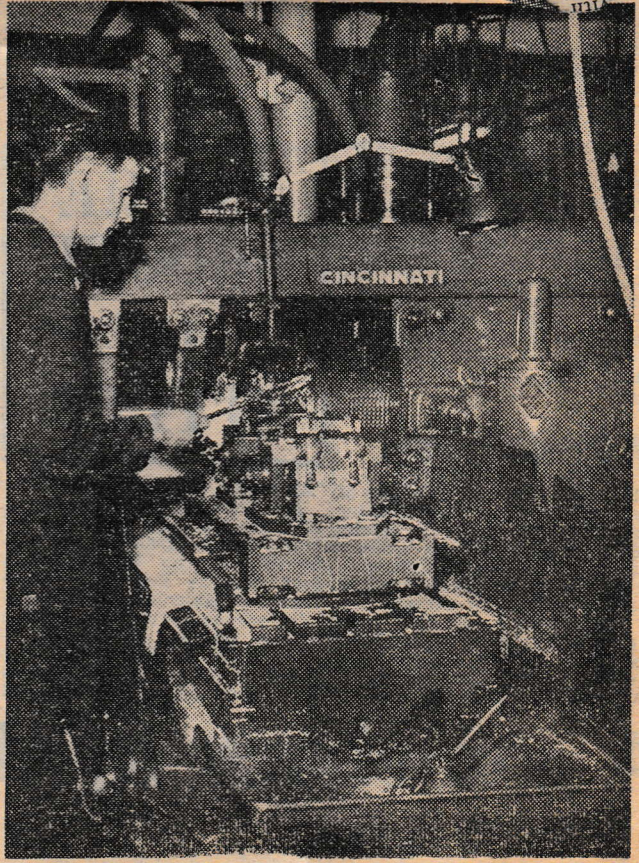
As the material flows without movement between the particles there is practically no damage on even the most fragile material.

Power and maintenance costs are low and the machinery can handle from a few pounds to hundreds of tons per hour.

30 per cent. export

I was told on a recent visit to the works that: "Thirty per cent. of our production is exported, mainly to the Commonwealth countries. We have quite a large business in South Africa and British East Africa.

"The other 70 per cent. is for the home market and our clients include well-known names in industry such as I.C.I., the National Coal Board,



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An interesting point is that Redlers have on test under actual working conditions, a large number of clients' materials for bulk storage and handling in the conveyer system. At present over 3,000 samples are held.

Both firms offer their employees a variety of recreations and their cricket clubs are well-known in the Stroud district.

In addition, there is a Silver Link Club for those who have completed 25 years or more service and two of the directors, Mr. C. W. Allin and Mr. S. H. Forbes, are members. The board of directors for

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both companies is: Mr. F. E. Young (chairman), Mr. C. W. Allin, Mr. H. E. Mutton and Mr. S. H. Forbes.

A fairly recent introduction has been a quarterly news sheet called the "Redler News and RB Bulletin". This has caught the imagination of many clients and prospective clients and at present 26,000 copies are mailed in this country and various countries overseas direct, every quarter.

On a recent visit I was also shown the considerable extensions to the Works and also to the Office Block which has been very considerably enlarged over the last 18 months, and is now virtually completed.