

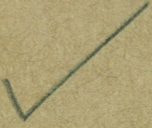
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Sixty Years a Queen

# On Her Majesty's Service

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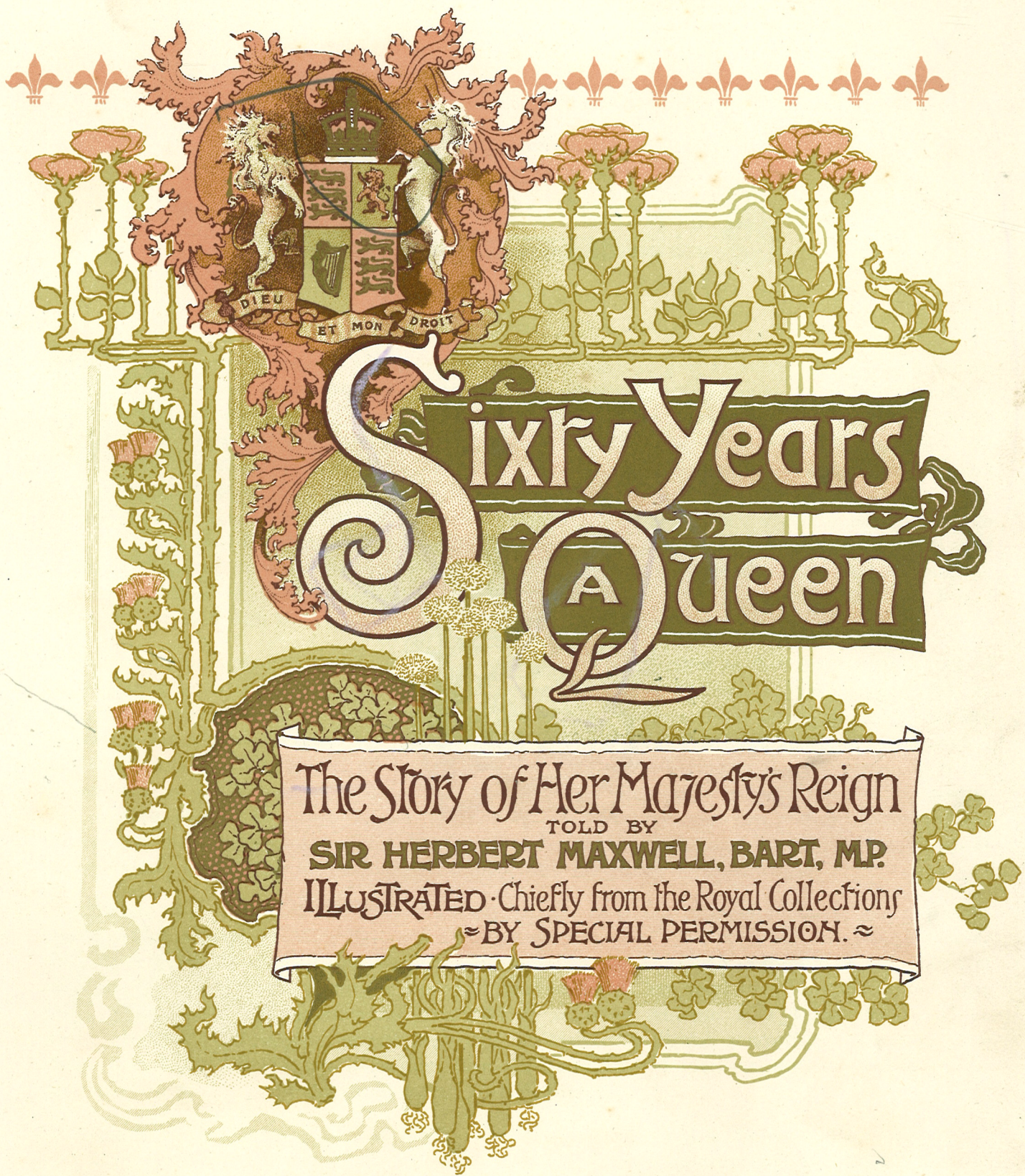
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# SIXTY YEARS A QUEEN.



W. & A. GILBERT



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SIXTY YEARS A QUEEN:

THE STORY OF VICTORIA'S REIGN

TOLD BY

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., M.P.

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or not! As a matter of fact, he wrote to Parkes that the expiry of the registration had deprived her owners of the right, but that as the Chinese did not know that, they must be held responsible



From a Photograph]

[By Thiele, Chancery Lane.

INTERIOR OF THE GUN-COTTON FACTORY AT WALTHAM ABBEY.

The picture represents the Pulping and Moulding Room. Gun-cotton consists of cotton-waste subjected to the action of nitric acid, washed, boiled, chopped into pulp, and pressed into blocks.

ing a reward for the heads of Englishmen. He got no heads, but he forfeited the respect which England always pays to an honourable foe.

There was considerable sensation when the news came to England. Lord Derby moved a vote of censure in the Lords, and the only answer the Lord Chancellor could make to the enquiry whether, supposing a Chinese owner of a Chinese vessel bought a British ensign, that made her

a British vessel, was that the Chinese had no right to assume that the flag was hoisted illegally. The House of Lords supported the Government, but it went worse with them in the Commons. On the motion of Mr. Cobden, Ministers were

**Defeat of the Government, and Dissolution.**

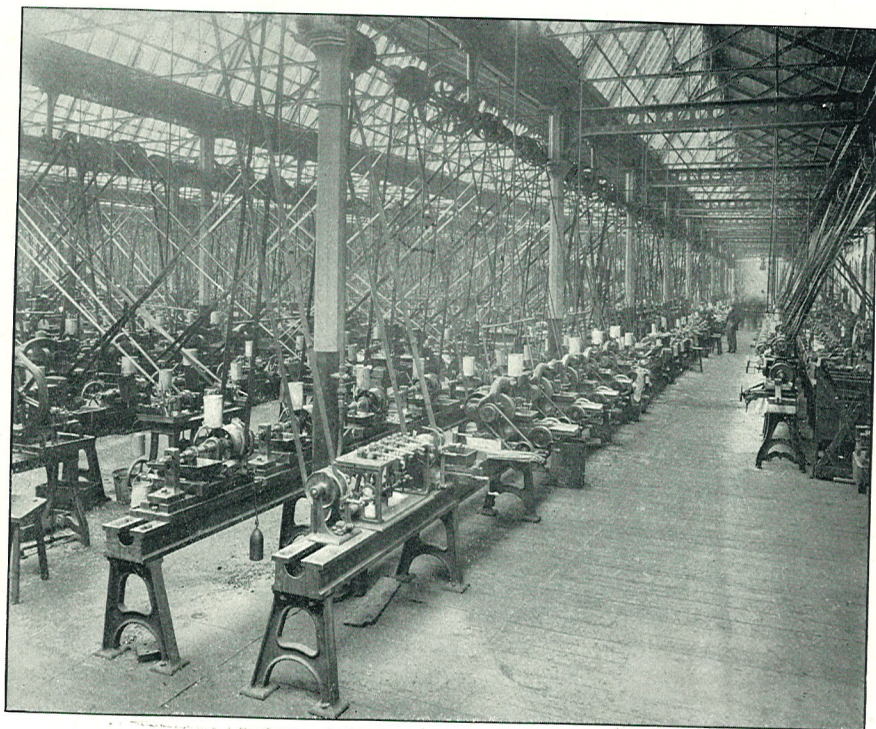
defeated by a majority of sixteen.

Mr. Disraeli had dared the Government to go to the country on the question. "I should like," he had said, in the measured, biting accents of his later manner, "to see the proud leaders of the Liberal party—no reform, new taxes, Canton blazing, Peking invaded!" Palmerston took up the gauntlet; he appealed to the country, and he put his policy—thorough

for insulting the flag. Anyhow, it was enough for Bowring that Chinese officials had dared to take men by force from under that flag, whether it had been hoisted rightfully or wrongfully. He sent an ultimatum to Yeh, demanding the release of the men and an ample apology within forty-eight hours, or he would begin hostilities. Yeh released the men, and promised that greater caution should be observed in future, but he refused to apologise, maintaining that the *Arrow* was in fact a Chinese vessel. Incredible as it may seem that such powers should be vested in a British Minister, and still more so, that he should employ them in such a miserable quarrel, nevertheless Bowring

**War with China.**

ordered up the fleet and Canton was severely bombarded for several days. Yeh made the tactical blunder of offer-



From a Photograph]

[By Eyre & Spottiswoode.

BARREL-ROOM AT THE SMALL ARMS FACTORY, ENFIELD.



“Jingo,” as it would be termed nowadays—before the constituencies in such sort that he was returned to power stronger than before. Never was a Minister more thoroughly justified in settling

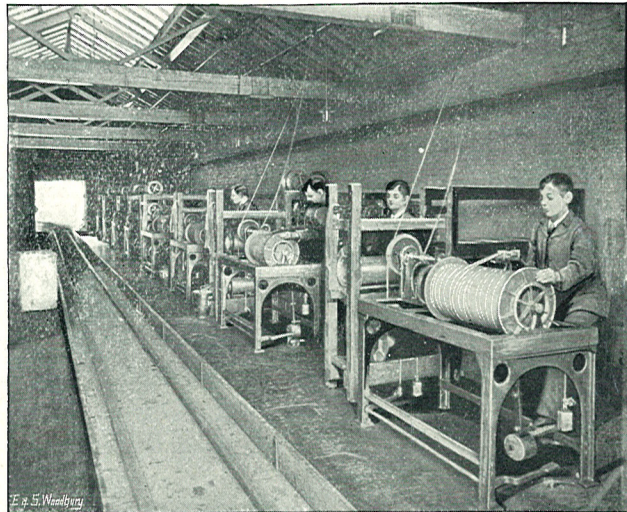
**Palmerston returns to Office.**

his plans for a long spell of office. But Palmerston himself is said to have observed once that “the life of a Ministry was never worth three months’ purchase,” of which the fate of his own second Administration was a striking illustration. It lasted just long enough to enable him to announce to the House of Commons in February 1858 that Canton had fallen before a combined English and French force; for the French in the interval had managed to pick a quarrel with the Chinese. A treaty was concluded securing access to the interior of China for Englishmen and Frenchmen, establishing diplomatic relations between England and France and the Court of China, and securing the toleration of Christianity.

On June 25, 1857, the Queen issued Letters Patent conferring on Prince Albert the title of Prince Consort, a name which had been popularly applied to him for many years in England, and by which he was known henceforward to the world. The change may seem an unimportant one, but it created some unreasonable dissatisfaction at the time, and the Press of the country betrayed no enthusiasm in its favour.

The transit of news had been greatly accelerated over large tracts of the globe by the use of electricity, but it still took many weeks to convey intelligence between Great Britain and her Empire in India. Little did the people who assembled in London on June 23, 1857, to celebrate the centenary of the Battle of Plassey, by which Bengal was added to the British Dominions, imagine that at that very moment Bengal was the scene of a conflict as mighty in scope as it was horrifying in detail. The story burst upon England with the suddenness of

a tornado. The Sepoy army had risen in revolt, murdered their officers, proclaimed the King of Delhi Emperor of India, and the whole peninsula was in rebellion. There had been awful massacres too; English men, women, and children had been slaughtered in hundreds; most hideous of all there were circumstantial stories of outrage, followed by torture, committed upon our women. A terrible moan for vengeance rose throughout the land. There were few families who had not relations, or at least friends and acquaintances, among the British communities in India; the suddenness of the news was not



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**WINDING CORDITE IN THE GOVERNMENT FACTORY.**

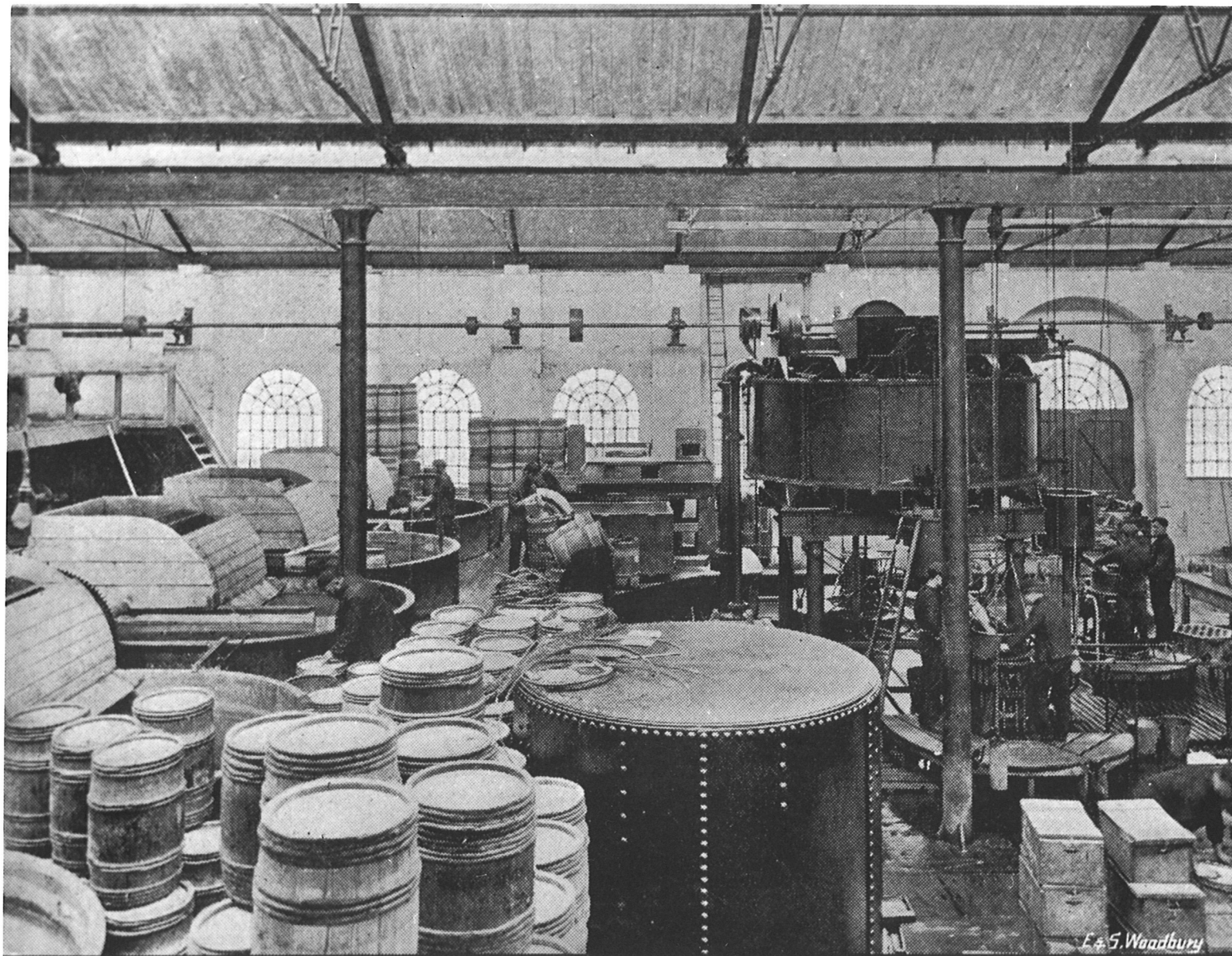
Cordite is composed of gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine. In the form of grey cord it is wound on reels, and afterwards cut into lengths.



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**MACHINE-GUN SHOP AT THE SMALL ARMS FACTORY, ENFIELD.**

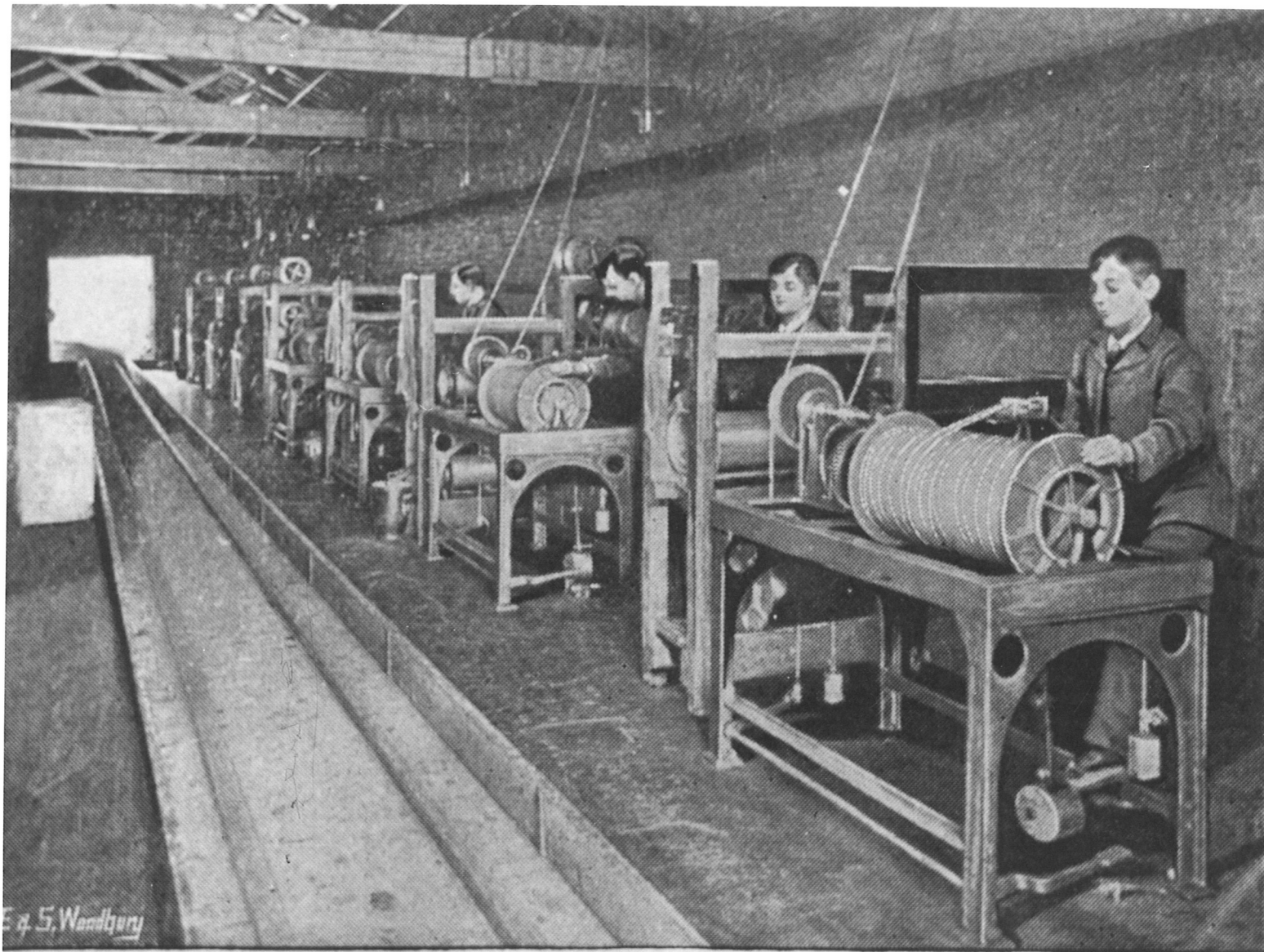


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INTERIOR OF THE GUN-COTTON FACTORY AT WALTHAM ABBEY.

The picture represents the Pulping and Moulding Room. Gun-cotton consists of cotton-waste subjected to the action of nitric acid, washed, boiled, chopped into pulp, and pressed into blocks.



*E. S. Wardbury*

*From a Photograph]*

*[by Thiele, Chancery Lane.*

### WINDING CORDITE IN THE GOVERNMENT FACTORY.

Cordite is composed of gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine. In the form of greasy cord it is wound on reels, and afterwards cut into lengths.

