



**IT'S THE MEN
WHO MAKE THE ERIE!**

How to Make a Bed for a Railroad


YOU are looking at a "mechanical mole" regularly used to clean the ballast on the Erie roadbed.

This ingenious machine forces a cutting plate into the stone ballast to a depth of 8 inches or more. Up comes the dirty ballast, a rotary screen sifts out dirt and cinders, and a conveyor carries this dirt to the outside embankment. Then clean stone goes into place to give good support for ties and track—open channels for drainage.

Cleaning the roadbed is another step in Erie's program of efficient operation to insure fast, safe, dependable transportation. For a clean, well-kept roadbed means less vibration—smooth, easy riding. It is essential these days when America's railroads are doing their utmost in doing the world's greatest transportation job... and it's essential, too, in the peacetime job of tomorrow.



 **23,578** FREIGHT TRAINS DAILY *

 **1,408,964** FREIGHT CARS DAILY *

 **25,000,000** NET TONS DAILY *

AMERICAN RAILROADS AT WAR

THE RAILROAD OF HELPFUL SERVICE