

HOW THE SEA HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MANCHESTER: A PANORAMA OF THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL—A GREAT ENGINEERING FEAT THAT COST £15,000,000, AND CONNECTED THE CITY DIRECTLY WITH THE ATLANTIC.



THE WONDERFUL WATERWAY THAT MAKES MANCHESTER A SEAPORT: PANORAMIC DRAWING OF THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL—SHOWING (CENTRE) THE GREAT DOCKS, (RIGHT BACKGROUND) THE REMARKABLE SWING-BRIDGE AT BARTON, CARRYING THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL ACROSS THE SHIP CANAL, AND (LEFT BACKGROUND) LIVERPOOL AT THE MOUTH OF THE MERSEY.

By the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal—one of the engineering wonders of the modern world—Manchester was brought into direct touch with the Atlantic, and became a great seaport. Vessels of 15,000 tons regularly visit the port, and five of these can be berthed at once in the great docks shown in the centre of the drawing, just beyond the long line of buildings with the funnels of liners appearing above the roof. The canal is 36 miles long, about 28 ft. deep, and 120 ft. wide, being considerably broader than the Suez Canal. It was begun in 1897, opened for traffic on January 1, 1894, and formally inaugurated by Queen Victoria on May 21 of that year. The total cost of its construction was over £15,000,000. The dock area covers 406 acres, and contains 53 hydraulic, 73 steam, and 130 electric cranes. The Canal forms a short cut by water to the most populous industrial district in the world. "The most striking engineering device connected with the Canal," writes Mr. J. F. Wood, in "The Story of Manchester," "is the swing bridge at Barton [seen just to the left of the bend in the right background], which replaces Brindley's aqueduct, and carries the Bridgewater Canal over the Ship Canal. When large ships pass up the Canal, this bridge, the ends of which are then closed by iron gates, swings on a pillar into a position parallel with the banks, and the ships can pass by on either side. This wonderful aqueduct, when closed by the iron gates and full of water, weighs about 1600 tons, but it can be moved with the utmost ease." In the distance on the left is the mouth of the Mersey, with Liverpool and Birkenhead facing each other on opposite sides of the river.—(See Key-plan on another page.)