

The joinery is now fitted into the panels, but the pins are knocked out of the hinges and the sashes are removed during transport and erection.

Alongside the factory is a long, low building, rather dark and damp inside—just the right atmosphere for drying and maturing concrete. Here are made all the concrete parts for the houses—wash tubs, coppers and hearths, fireplace surrounds and hearths, even the fence posts, clothes posts, and the back steps are precast. The chimneys are made here too, in sections to be built up on the site, like a child's blocks.



Two of the jig tables with the panels being assembled.

All this concrete has to mature for some weeks before it can be used, so that much of the workshop is filled with assorted shapes of concrete products.

Did you ever stand in a factory, fascinated by what seemed miles of whirling countershaft and clacking belts and moving very warily because there always seemed to be something whizzing viciously just behind your ear? There's nothing like that in the prefabricated housing factory. The building is big,

airy, well lighted, and clean and the machines are well spaced apart. There are no belts visible: each machine is driven by its own electric motor, and where belt drives are necessary they are under the machines. The floor is not littered with piles of sawdust and shavings: each machine has over it a hood connected by suction pipes to the blower, or exhauster fan, which draws all waste into a common bin. Two truckloads of sawdust and shavings leave the factory daily, so if you can think up a profitable use for sawdust here is the foundation of a fortune.

Almost all tradesmen are prejudiced against prefabrication at first, but once they understand its workings they become enthusiastic supporters of the system. The men who work these machines are doing a necessary job, but over and above that they are craftsmen, doing a job well, and they are justly proud of it. One of the early objections to prefabrication, particularly on the part of tradesmen, was that it was going to throw skilled men out of work. The answer to that is that there is such a demand for houses now that there will be work enough for all for some years to come, even with mass-production methods cutting routine labour to a minimum.

After that—one operator suggested that if the scheme were to progress as it shows every sign of doing, there was no reason why the worker should not have more leisure-time to devote to his own interests. That, however, is in the future.

It's a new idea, so new that many people distrust it instinctively, but it is in line with modern industrial trends, and prefabrication of houses is here to stay.

## Houses flown up Amazon

The problem of constructing dwellings in rubber development centres in Brazil, where natural rubber for the United Nations is being produced, is being solved by flying prefabricated houses up the Amazon River. U.S. flying boats are transporting parts from a prefabrication plant in the state of California.