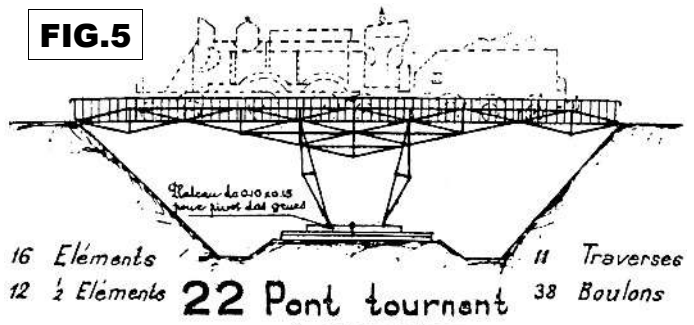


into cranks on either side, spaced 90° apart. • 1 **Pulley** (Poulie), wooden, 22mm Ø, not shown. There were no other Wheels or Gears in the Set. • 2 **Wooden Bases** (Plateaux) 230*145*10mm. • 2 **Wooden Bases** (Platelages), one 150*88*9mm, one the same width & thickness but 445mm long. [After 1920 there were only 2 Wooden Bases, called Planchettes, 110*110, 150mm & 5mm thick.] • 1 **Ladder** (Echelle de corde). 'C' in Fig.2 – a metal part though the French name means rope-ladder. • 1 **Ball of Cord** (Peloton de ficelle), now wound onto the Winding Drum. • 6 **Tent Panels** (Eléments de tente, later called Toile de tente – Tent Fabric). The red & white striped card. • 3 **Semaphore Balls** (Boules sémaphoriques), 30mm Ø, wooden, painted red, white, & black with small hooks at either end. • 4 **Emblems** (Pavillons), the card parts to the right of the Tent Panel. Pavillons can include ship's flags, signal flags, brand insignia, etc and from 1920 a different range were called 'Oriflammes et Signaux'. • 1 **Flag** (Drapeau), 1 **Disc** (Disque), 1 **Square** (Carré). More card parts, all sitting on



the Tent Panel. The Disc is made of red card; all the other cardboard parts in the Set are, unlike later versions, printed on only one side. The Disque & Carré were called round & square railway signal discs from 1920.

Fig.5 is another model from the manual described in 24/701, no doubt like the one missing from Jacques' set.

CONSTRUCTOR [0]: S2

OSN 42/1268

Snippet. 'New' System: CONSTRUMEC

The set shown here was seen on the Argentine Ebay and the lot consisted of the box (Figs.1 & 3), the loose manual pages (Fig.2) with the top one headed CONSTRUMEC, and a manual from the Argentinean INGENIERIA MECANICA INFANTIL (IMI) system. This manual's cover (Fig.4) is the same design as the IMI lid label, very different from CONSTRUMEC.



FIG.1



FIG.2

However there is a definite connection between the two systems because the CONSTRUMEC Illustrated Parts page (Fig.3) is, apart from the heading, identical with the corresponding IMI page in MCS. Whether the IMI manual was originally part of the Set isn't known, but its presence does mean that one can't rule out that the parts in the Set may be a mix of the two systems. The parts in 3 Ebay snippets of IMI outfits look identical to those in Fig.3 except that the red, blue & bright parts are sometimes in a different one of those colours, and the large Road Wheel & Pulley are a different colour in each case. This sort of variation is not uncommon in Argentine sets of the post-WW2 decade.

By scaling from the IMI Ebay photos, the pitch of the IMI holes is about 10mm, and from the MCS Illustrated Parts the Axles are described as 4mm, the Bolts as '3.95', and the Set Screws as 1/8" (BSW no doubt). Many of the 64 IMI parts are conventional looking but there are no slotted holes in the Plates & A/Gs, and unusual parts are the 7h Trunnions, the 11h long Flanged Sector Plate, the 5*9h & 5*13h Flanged Plates, and the 6h Bush Wheel & Wheel Disc, the latter with a large centre hole. The Flexible Plates are 3*5,13h & 5*5,11, 13h, plus 5*5h Curved & 'U' Plates. There are 9 Strips from 2-29h, plus a 5h Curved, and a Formed Slotted Strip. Also a 29h long A/G.

Some of these parts can be seen in Fig.3, and all the others there look like IMI except that if the bright part top right is a 13h A/G, it is not in any of the IMI Ebay sets, nor is it listed for IMI in MCS.



FIG.4



FIG.3



CONSTRMEC: S1

OSN 42/1268