

## ACT TWO

### Scene 7 : The Trent Dispatches

(ENTER RAMSBOTTOM)

RAMSBOTTOM: (MUSIC UNDER) Name's Ramsbottom. Loco Superintendent at Crewe. Don<sup>1</sup> underestimate my little engine, No. **229**, Watt, of the Problem class. It may be small but it'll do the job. The low slung boilers are small. Have to be to fit between the **7' 6"** driving wheels. The steam pressure may be low and we may be a little unsteady at speed owing to the short wheelbase, but we'**11** make her run today. Short on power she is, but we'll thrash her till she flies. Heavy on fuel and water? I've thought of that. I've fitted a scoop, pivoted beneath the engine's tender, to pick up water from the troughs I've laid on the track between Holyhead and Chester. We fill the tank without stopping the train. It's a neat little engine, the Watt.

(DURING RAMSBOTTOM'S SPEECH, THE DRIVER AND THE FIREMAN OF THE WATT ENGINE HAVE BROUGHT THE ENGINE ON STAGE AND ARE READY TO GO)...