

especially William continued the policy in 1873 he made the in 1894 to provide 6,000 in 1872 to ion was completed ds rose to a relative formation of joint- peak in 1891-92, 73-1902. When the oo was more than extended to include ard from 1881, the Heilmann comber eder from 1894 and -makers were so capacity that they tional exhibitions: hinery at Milan in

gnised by foreign Francis Joseph in Légion d'Honneur. ore to his father's il inheritance. The s from £966,538 in lly more important roportion of 83 per man and Japanese sales between 1873 nd America io per 1872 and 1879 but is in 1879, its peak of ring and mule s abroad sank from 14 as sales through ly as competition ard & Bullough of chdale. From 1895 sed the number of dles continued to orts of £9,710,200 me 16.7 per cent of

nical Engineers in 1873. He subscribed 1887, served as a g the crisis of 1891-ress of the works. naugural voyage of ber and machinery

through the new port. Platt was elected president of the Oldham Chamber of Commerce on its formation in 1883, holding office until his death and serving as an ex officio director of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. He was elected president of the Oldham District Engineering Trades Association and served as one of three representatives of Oldham on the executive board of the Engineering Employers' Federation established in 1896 by Colonel Dyer (qv). He emerged victorious from the strikes of 1897 and 1897-98 and was elected in 1900 to the Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He also served as a director of the British & North Atlantic Steam Navigation Co Ltd, the Chatterley-Whitfield Collieries Ltd and the Manchester Public Hall Co.

Like his father, Platt fostered the development of technical education. He became a director of the Oldham Lyceum in 1868 and its president in 1888-89, after enlarging the School of Science and Art in 1878-81 at the cost of £10,000 in memory of his father. In politics he inherited his father's position as leader of the local Liberals. He was the fourth and last member of his family to serve on the borough council (1882-92), being twice elected mayor, in 1887 and 1888. In 1873 he became a county magistrate, in 1886 a borough magistrate and in 1897 High Sheriff of Lancashire. He served as president of the Oldham Reform Club from 1881 until 1886 when he adopted the Unionist view on Home Rule and so lost any chance of becoming a Liberal MP. He remained a staunch free trader and an Anglican.

Platt did not devote himself exclusively to business but developed his interest in cricket, foreign travel, music and drama. He became chairman of Werneth Cricket Club from its foundation in 1864, bringing to Oldham an All-England eleven in 1866 and the Australian eleven in 1878 on their first overseas tour. From 1865 onwards Platt travelled extensively abroad in his ocean yacht, tending to neglect the works during the travel season in summer. Excelling on the oboe, he organised works orchestras in 1865 and 1873 and works choirs in 1878 and 1884. In 1870 he presented a £3,000 organ with four manuals, suitable for a cathedral organ, to St Thomas's Church, Werneth. In 1892 he became a founder member and trustee of the Royal Manchester College of Music as well as founder and president of the Oldham School of Music. He organised weekly winter concerts in Oldham and served from 1895 as president of the Oldham Orchestral Society. He built up a music library of over a thousand works and was included in 1897 in a dictionary of British musical biography, which omitted any mention of his business career. After his death he was commemorated in the S R Platt Scholarship at the Oldham School of Music.

In 1884 he married Helen May Hodder Roberts, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Platt died at the age of fifty-seven on 5 September 1902, on board his yacht in the Menai Straits, leaving £648,643 gross, more than double the average size of estate left by his six brothers: his widow left £178,726 when she died in 1926. Samuel Platt was the last member of the family to preside over the destinies of the firm and was succeeded as chairman by John Dodd under whom production reached its all-time peak in 1906.

D A FARNIE