

of his time. Consequently the Bryn-y-Neuadd estate was offered for sale but there were no takers. Despite this setback, the estate remained, under the eye of the Agent, fully manned and kept up and, from time to time, some members of the Family would stay there, but no further developments were undertaken in the House nor on the estate generally. Then, in 1884, John Platt's youngest son, Sydney, who had been only eleven years old when his father died, and his young wife Bertha (nee Marshall) decided to make their home at Bryn-y-Neuadd. This decision was cause for great joy and celebration in Llanfairfechan and when the young couple arrived in the village, on Christmas Eve, their carriage was drawn by estate workmen in a procession, headed by a band, from the railway station to the House. A few days later a banquet was held, for all walks of life in the village, to express the universal satisfaction felt at their being, at long last, permanent residents at Bryn-y-Neuadd. For over thirteen years Sydney and Bertha Platt entered into the life of Llanfairfechan; he was the leading figure in the building of St. Winifred's School for Girls. Nevertheless, Bertha Platt never wholeheartedly took to living at Bryn-y-Neuadd so that in 1898 the couple decided to leave. Again the estate was put up for sale, this time successfully, and so just forty-one years after John Platt had bought the Roberts lands the Platt association with Bryn-y-Neuadd ended.

Apart from the cessation of developments on the Bryn-y-Neuadd estate itself, two major projects, partially outside its boundaries, were abandoned after John Platt's death. The first was the direct private carriage drive from Bryn-y-Neuadd to Gordinog. As matters had stood, when travelling from the House at Bryn-y-Neuadd to the House at Gordinog it had been necessary to leave Bryn-y-Neuadd Park at Grand Lodge and pass along the Turnpike road to enter the grounds of Gordinog at Main Lodge. The plan for the new carriage drive (which, in the reverse direction, was also intended as a more convenient route for Henry Platt to attend Christ Church) had been to leave Bryn-y-Neuadd Park at Front Lodge, cross over the Turnpike road and proceed in a much shorter line, entirely over Platt land, to enter the immediate grounds of Gordinog at East Lodge. Work had actually started at the Gordinog end where an impressive sweeping entrance to the drive had been constructed in front of the house – The Oaks – in which the Agent to the Gordinog estate was to live as also, at that point, had an ornamental drinking trough for the horses and dogs. From the entrance, the foundations for the carriageway had been excavated for some distance to-wards Bryn-y-Neuadd.

The second, and by far the more significant, project to be abandoned was the provision of a dock and pier at Llanfairfechan to

accommodate the sea going steam yachts of three of John Platt's sons: Henry Platt's "Jessie", Samuel Radcliffe Platt's "Norsemen" and Frederick Platt's "Jeannette". Parliamentary approval had been needed for this project and, in 1872, progress was well advanced. A Board of Trade provisional order had been granted, plans had been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace in Caernarfon and a house "Moranedd", supporting a lantern tower, had been built at the mouth of the Llanfairfechan river.

John Platt, except for the specific bequests to his wife, Alice, of a sum of two thousand pounds (for her immediate contingencies upon his death), his jewellery and various of his effects in the House and about the grounds at Werneth Park, left his real and personal estate to his trustees (who, also, he made his executors), his three eldest sons: Henry Platt, Samuel Radcliffe Platt and Frederick Platt and his two sons-in-law Thomas Hardcastle Sykes (the husband of his eldest daughter, Mary) and Joshua Walmsley Radcliffe (the husband of his second daughter, Lucy Jane) entailed to their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns under direction for certain provisions to be made for his daughters and his other four sons (these sons when the Will was made were minors and were still so at the time of his death) and the children of any son or daughter who might have predeceased him. The statutes ruling in 1872 did not require a valuation of an estate to be included with the Probate of a will but the measure put by the Family on John Platt's fortune was six and a half million pounds. The Will declared that Alice Platt was to be allowed to live free of rent at Werneth Park but she was to be responsible for the payment of all rates and taxes, insurance premiums and the repair and maintenance costs on the property. Her income, of £2000 per annum, was to be provided either out of the interest on John Platt's "residuary trust property" or from the purchase of an annuity according to which option the Trustees deemed preferable. Apropos the provisions directed for his sons and daughters John Platt instructed that any advances he had made or any extraordinary expenditure he had incurred for the "advance-ment in life", of any son or daughter, and so recorded in his Private Ledger, the amount involved was to be debited against the share due to that son or daughter. Notwithstanding this general instruction, an explicit contrary instruction was given that the Gordinog estate was not to be debited against Henry Platt's share. Under the Will the Trustees were empowered to act in the widest possible way, as they saw fit, in the matter of the shares in Platt Brothers & Company Limited.