

Brothers was asked by a Kidderminster firm of carpet weavers, Tomkinson & Adam, if it would make several Spool Axminster Carpet Looms to a design Tomkinson & Adam had imported from the USA. Platt Brothers agreed and thus became embarked on the manufacture of yet another line of machines. Soon a Chenille Carpet Loom and a Gripper Axminster Carpet Loom, both to Platt Brothers own designs, together with a Kleitos Loom and French Knotting Loom of Tomkinson & Adam designs were added to the line. In the mid nineteen-twenties sections of the UK carpet industry were placing an ever increasing emphasis on the use of the Spool Axminster Loom because it offered such a wide flexibility in the patterns of carpet it could weave compared with other types of loom. As Platt Brothers was the sole maker, in the UK, of the Spool Axminster Loom it concentrated all its development energies into this machine and its associated Setting Frame – the machine on which the variously coloured pile yarns are selected for and wound on the spools to be arranged in the loom gantry. Over the years, these machines brought most rewarding returns from the home market and markets overseas.

That the Platt Brothers comprehensive range of textile machinery continued to hold a market supremacy up to the eve of the first world war, both in terms of technical standard and outright quality, was borne out by the regularly frequent successes it gained, in the nature of Grand Prix, medals and diplomas, at exhibitions and trade fairs held in countries, throughout the world, where textile machinery was in demand: Vienna (1873), Philadelphia (1876), Paris (1878), London, Atlanta and Charleston (1881), Bradford (1882), Huddersfield (1883), Edinburgh (1886), Barcelona (1888), Chicago (1893), Atlanta and Rouen (1896), Paris (1900), St Louis (USA – 1904), London (1905), Reichenberg and Lagos (1906), Nagpur (1908), London (Japan-British Exhibition, 1910) and Ghent (1913). On two occasions a personal honour was also bestowed on Samuel Radcliffe Platt, the Chairman of the Company, at Vienna, in 1873: Cross of Knight of the Order of Francis Joseph and at Paris in 1878: Cross of the Legion of Honour. The successes at Bradford and Huddersfield were a firm indication that the Platt Brothers woollen and worsted machinery was assuredly competitive with that from the Yorkshire based manufacturers. The crowning glory to the era was enjoyed when Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary, accompanied by HRH Prince Albert (later King George VI), on their royal tour of Lancashire, in the summer of 1913, included in their itinerary a visit to Hartford Works which was still, perhaps even more than ever, a showpiece amongst engineering factories of the day.

