

XI *Inter-War Years – Public Company and Merger*

During the first world war the Platt Brothers works were extensively turned over to the making of munitions though the manufacture of textile machinery did not cease completely. In the years 1915-18 Mules and Ringframes, comprising just over one and threequarter million spindles, together with the supporting preparatory machinery were produced. On the resumption of peace time conditions Platt Brothers advertised a range of machinery, in keeping with its long tradition, as a truly comprehensive supplier to the textile industry:

Cotton Ginning Machines – Saw and Roller types.
 Cotton Opening and Cleaning Machines and Scutchers (The Blowroom Machines).
 Cotton Waste – Breaking and Tearing Machines and Willows.
 Cotton Carding Machines.
 Woollen and Waste Carding Machines – with Feeders,
 Intermediate Feeders and Condensers.
 Worsteds Carding Machines – with Feeders.
 Cotton Combers and Cotton Combing Preparatory Machines.
 Cotton Drawframes.
 Worsteds Preparatory Machines for both the English (Bradford) and French systems – Combs and Gill Boxes accordingly.
 Speedframes (or Flyerframes) for cotton, worsted and silk waste.
 Mules and Twiners for cotton, cotton waste, wool, worsted and silk waste.
 Ringframes for cotton, cotton waste, wool, worsted and silk waste.
 Chapon Spinning Machines.
 Ring Doubling Frames, including for fancy yarns.
 Ring and Flyer Twistors.
 Winding Machines.
 Reeling Machines.
 Warping or Beaming Machines
 Sizing Machines.
 Power Looms for plain and fancy weaves in cotton, woollen, worsted, linen, jute and silk and for carpets with allied Setting Frame.

Jacquards and Dobbies.

Hydraulic Presses for bundling yarn and cloth.

Cloth Folding and Measuring Machines.

Asbestos Machinery for pounding, opening, carding, spinning, doubling and weaving.

Replacement Rollers, Spindles, Flyers and sundry other parts.

Also Brickmaking Machinery and Pit Tubs.

Those machines whose functions have not already been outlined, or are not self-evident by name, can be explained as follows: The Willow was a machine for cleaning soft waste, extracted from the main cotton spinning process. The Gill Box was a drawing machine, for worsted, equivalent in purpose to the cotton Drawframe. The Chapon Spinning Machine produced, in a cup device, soft waste weft yarns. The Twinner was a machine, akin to the Mule, for twisting together two or more yarns to form a twine or thread, e.g. sewing cottons. For the same purpose, the Ring Doubling Frame and Ring Twister employed the ring system – as introduced for spinning on the Ringframe – and the Flyer Twister used a rotating arm, 'flyer', in a manner similar to the Speedframes. Winding Machines, in various versions, transferred the yarn from the packages made on the spinning machines into forms of packages suitable for subsequent processes, including weft pirns for the loom shuttle. Reeling Machines wound yarn into an open layered package (hank) for processes such as dyeing or for the most economic method of direct marketing, e.g. wool hand knitting yarns. Warping or Beaming Machines assembled on a beam (cylinder with flanges) warp yarns for the Loom. Sizing Machines imparted to warp yarns a deposit of paste to protect the yarns from chaffing during weaving. Jacquards and Dobbies were devices fitted to the Loom to govern the weave of the more complex cloth patterns. The ability to offer Brickmaking Machinery resulted from the Company having laid down facilities to manufacture such for its large building programme, mentioned earlier. Pit Tubs, for the similar reason, from first having made these items for the Company's own collieries.

Business soon seemed to be proceeding as expected and the Company continued to pay a satisfactory dividend which after 1868, when it had transformed into a limited liability company, had averaged annually at a level of between thirteen and fourteen per cent. In 1922 the Company returned its then highest ever profit and in that year the Shares were placed on the Market and Platt Brothers & Company Limited became a public company. When indications of a slump in the Lancashire cotton industry appeared in 1921 no untoward alarm was felt at the Company. The opinion abroad in the county was that even if a slump did occur it would not last for more than five years and meanwhile orders on the Company's books from customers overseas were healthy and, it was