

been taken before the war had ended to increase the manufacturing capacity of TMM. Several factories which would become surplus at the war's end were explored, surprisingly these included the Hawker Aircraft factory at Squires Gate, Blackpool. Finally, early in 1945, a ten year lease was taken on a factory in Trafford Park, at Barton in Manchester, in which Ford had been making Rolls Royce aero engines. Initially, this factory was deemed to be a third works of Platt Brothers but, in due course, it was given the status of a separate Operating Company with the name of Platt (Barton) Limited. It had become evident by 1939 that the system which the Central Sales Department and the Operating Companies were working was totally unrealistic. Therefore, one of the earliest actions taken, after the war, was to form a new TMM subsidiary company – Platt Brothers (Sales) Limited – to act as a proper central selling organisation for the textile machinery, in conjunction with a thoroughly rationalised allocation of the various types of machine to the Operating Companies. The principle of the allocation was, henceforward, there was to be only one model of each type of machine manufactured and this by a specific Operating Company.

The allocation made was as follows: Platt Brothers, East Works – cotton Gins and Cards for woollen, worsted, waste and asbestos. Platt Brothers, Hartford Works – cotton Combers and combing preparatory machinery, worsted preparation machinery (French system), Ringframes for woollen, worsted and waste (false twist type), Ring Doublers (including for fancy yarns), Ring Twisters, Spool Axminster Carpet Looms, Setting Frames, and Narrow Fabric Looms. Platt Brothers, Barton Works – cotton Blowroom machinery and cotton Cards (these both transferred from the East Works) and cotton Drawframes (transferred from Howard & Bullough). Brooks & Doxey – waste preparatory machinery and Chapon Spinner. Dobson & Barlow – Speedframes and 'Nelson' type viscose rayon spinning machines and allied machines. Howard & Bullough – cotton Ringframes and cotton waste Ringframes (drafting system type), and spindles for all machines on which this item was used, ie. in addition for fitment on Ringframes of its own manufacture also for fitment on the Ringframes and Ring Doublers and Twisters made at Hartford Works. A self contained works (Stevenson Street Works), at Accrington, was exclusively devoted to spindle manufacture.

It has been noted that Asa Lees had been allocated the manufacture of Mules and Reels and Joseph Hibbert had become the sole maker of sizing machines. The other types of machine which Platt Brothers had advertised, after the first world war, but which did not figure in the allocations, had been dropped because specialist makers, especially in Switzerland and in the USA, during the second world war, had taken the

level of technology of these machines beyond the boundaries which prohibited a sensible attempt by TMM to invest in the development programme necessary to catch up. Looms, too, with the exception of carpet looms and narrow fabric looms, had fallen into an equal situation. No attempt was made to resurrect the Tayoda loom, instead TMM concluded an agreement with the British Northrop Automatic Loom Company, at Blackburn, under which TMM would offer that Company's loom in certain agreed markets. The Agreement allowed a TMM representative a seat on the Board of Directors of British Northrop but the agreement was short lived as British Northrop itself fell behind the competition. Platt Brothers made, at Hartford Works, two lines of non-textile machinery which had been introduced before the second world war, these were: a range of mechanical clutches which were sold through J H Fenner & Company and Wire Tying Machines, for banding packing cases and similar packages, which were sold through F A Power & Company. In 1945, there occurred a repeat of the situation which had introduced carpet looms into the range of Platt Brothers' product machines. British Nylon Spinners Limited (a company owned jointly by Courtaulds and ICI) asked Platt Brothers to make a batch of Drawtwisters, to a design it had itself procured in the USA, for the new factory it was establishing, at Pontypool, to process continuous filament nylon yarn. The task was duly accomplished and Platt Brothers' attention was turned to making further machines for the continuous filament yarn industry. Uprwisters, as well as Downtwisters were developed and included in the product range. At first, the work on these machines was conducted at Hartford Works, but, later, it was transferred to Barton Works when that works was ready to enlarge its field of activity.

When TMM came to restore its works to produce textile machinery many of the machine tools brought in during the second world war, which were much more advanced in their capabilities than those the Operating Companies had possessed previously, were acquired from the appropriate Government department and left in situ or moved to a position where they would provide the best possible service. New machine tools were purchased, as and when they became available under the acutely constrained supply conditions of the early post-war years. The single purpose machine tools, of the Operating Companies' own designs, were re-furnished and brought back into position or moved according to where the product machines they were designed to serve were allocated. Wartime production methods had taught the Operating Companies the immense benefits of 'tooling-up' on a scale far exceeding the one they had practised in pre-war days, both for manufacturing operations and for inspection operations. Consequently an