

such as spindles, rings and rollers, were supplied from the English Companies but, progressively, these items, too, were made by NMM in extensions which had been made to the original factory. The Agreement was effective for twenty years but by the time termination was reached the product range, at NMM, had not extended beyond Ringframes, Ring Doublers and Cards. An attempt had been made to manufacture Drawframes but this had not been pursued since NMM had preferred to produce, in a sizeable quantity, Rütli looms under an agreement it had concluded with that Swiss Company. Meanwhile, other cotton spinning machinery makers had entered the Indian scene (one particularly successful concern in association with a Swiss company) and NMM's share of the market had been markedly dented. Moreover, currency regulations, in India, had caused, for the English Companies severe difficulties with the payment of their dividends. The English Companies decided, therefore, not to renew the Agreement and shortly afterwards the interests of all other parties in NMM were sold to one of the founder mill companies. Thus the scheme which had started with such high hopes fizzled out and the Indian market was lost. Foreign currency restrictions also prompted TMM to establish a cotton spinning machinery making company at Cruzeiro in Brazil – Platt do Brasil Maquinas Texteis S.A. This company, like NMM, started out on a joint venture basis, but, in time, TMM was able to acquire the shares of the Brazilian partners and, thereafter, it was operated as a wholly owned subsidiary. It brought modest results, chiefly from producing Ringframes, which otherwise would have been lost to TMM.

Licences were granted to concerns in Spain, Portugal and Poland, for those concerns to manufacture certain of the TMM cotton spinning machines, from which, over the years, reasonable revenues were derived.

XIII *The Finish of the Welsh Estates* – *Eric James Walter Platt*

Colonel Henry Platt died on the 13 October 1914 at the age of 71. He was succeeded at Gordinog by his younger son: Eric James Walter Platt. His elder son, Henry John Heylyn Platt, who was unmarried, had been drowned in 1893, at the age of 24, in a swimming accident in Kashmir and had been buried in India. After Eron and Sandhurst, Heylyn Platt had served as a Lieutenant with the 12th Royal Lancers. Colonel Platt was buried in the vault he had had prepared, for himself and his family, at St Bodian the parish church of Abergwyngregyn. His widow, Eleanor, retired, on the £80 000 Settlement which he had provided for her, to Ystrad Hall, Glanstrad in Denbighshire, which had been taken on a lease, where she lived until her death in 1926. In her will, apart from some minor legacies to her Sykes kin and some servants of long standing, she left the Settlement sum to be divided amongst Eric James Walter Platt, her elder daughter: Nesta Mary (Mrs Richards) and the three children of her younger daughter: Gladys Violet Eleanor (Mrs King) who had predeceased her.

Eric James Walter Platt did not experience any part of the Platt metamorphosis, he was born into the world of their firmly created Welsh estates, a world which was to be the scene and centre of his life. He came into that world on the 15 November 1871 at Bron-y-Maen, a superior house, in the heart of Llanfairfechan village, connected with the Bryn-y-Neuadd estate. He was educated at Eron and Cambridge and, in 1895, married, at Woodrooff, County Tipperary, in Ireland, Florence Grace Perry, the fifth daughter of Samuel Perry whose estates were at Woodrooff. They had one daughter: Eneid Mary Eleanor, who married, at Christ Church, Llanfairfechan, William Langdon, an officer in the Royal Air Force, who, soon after the second world war, retired with the rank of Air Commodore. The Langdons had no children. Thus, it had transpired that Eric James Walter Platt was to be the last in the direct line of the textile machinery making branch of Platt family. Later, it was to transpire that he was to be the last to enjoy an estate his grandfather, John Platt, had created with the Victorian air of permanence but which had to be surrendered for reasons John Platt could not have possibly imagined. Neither could John Platt, having had seven sons, have