of non-textile machinery. The production of wire tying machines was increased, these now being sold through Package Sealing Company (Export) Limited as well as through F A Power and the manufacture of Sisal Cord Tying Machines was introduced at Hartford Works for sale by Automatic Strapping Machines Limited, which company had found a developing market for these machines to bundle newspapers and similar publications as they came off the printing presses. Dobson & Barlow had contracted to make a range of brewery and soft drinks bottle handling and washing machinery on behalf of the Barry-Wehmiller Machinery Company of the USA, the UK subsidiary of which company held manufacturing and selling rights for a large section of the world market. This subsidiary company was owned equally by the US parent company and various parties in the UK. Platt Brothers (Holdings) bought the entire shareholding in the UK hands to guarantee the manufacture of the machinery would be securely maintained at Bradley Fold. To bolster further the non-textile activity Platt Brothers (Holdings) secured a controlling interest in Hayward Tyler & Company Limited, with works at Luton and East Kilbride, manufacturing pumps of various types, Epsylon Industries Limited, with premises at Feltham, to research into and to manufacture electronic recording equipment and, in two stages, bought outright all the ordinary shares in Le Grand, Sutcliff & Gell Limited, with works at Rochester and Southall, manufacturing drilling equipment for the oil and water industries.

In 1957 the financial structure of Platt Brothers & Company (Holdings) Limited was changed. Through a re-organisation of the shares the Capital of the Company was increased from £4 000 000 to £7 250 000, in the course of which exercise the last of the shares, held by minority interests, in TMM, Tweedales & Smalley and Prince Smith and Stells were acquired, making all three companies wholly owned subsidiaries. Shortly afterwards, to rationalise the cotton machinery interests, the Tweedales & Smalley shares were transferred to TMM. Kenneth Preston who had been the Chairman of J Stone & Company from 1943, had, in 1946, succeeded his father, Sir Walter Preston, as the Chairman of Platt Brothers & Company (Holdings) Limited. Although the two companies were financially independent they had, through the person of Kenneth Preston, worked closely in matters of mutual interest, particularly as each company was a large exporter of its products. Moreover, each company had embarked on a programme of diversification and so, in 1958, it was decided to bring the two companies under common ownership and control. The move was effected by Platt Brothers & Company (Holdings) Limited increasing its capital to £11 500 000 to absorb, by way of share allotment and some cash payment, J Stone & Company (Holdings) Limited – the name the Stone company had

assumed in 1951 following a re-organisation of its structure. To mark the move Platt Brothers & Company (Holdings) Limited changed its name to Stone-Platt Industries Limited which was the final name the business created by Henry Platt in 1815 was to bear – except for the substitution of 'plc' for 'Limited' when the law changed. To some people in Oldham, the name 'Stone-Platt Industries Limited' was, at first, confusing since they believed a company of that name had been extant from the years of the second world war. In reality, the name 'Stone-Platt Limited' had been allocated to a 'shell' company in which, the then still independent, Platt Brothers and Stone were joined to execute a particular form of war work carried out in the, Stone owned, Wallwork company's works in Oldham. Once the work had been completed the shell company was dissolved.