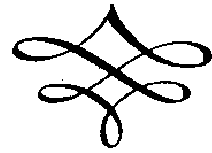
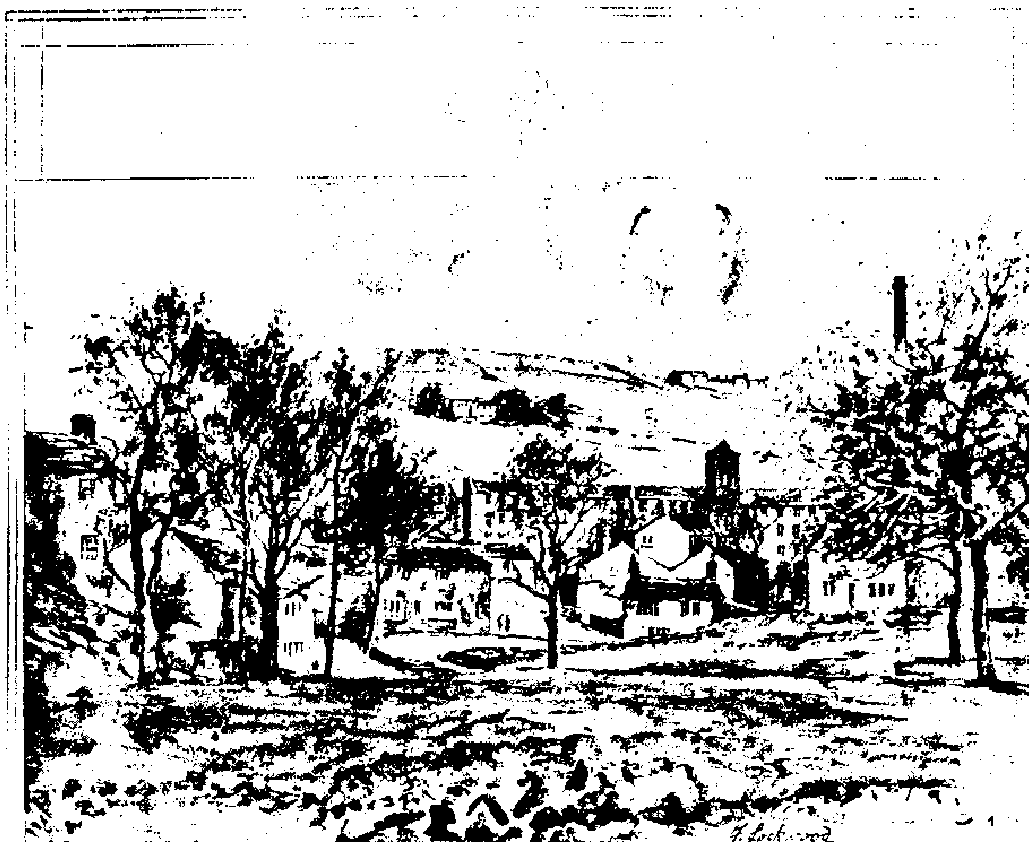


GEORGE
MALLINSON
& SONS, LTD.
Spring Grove Mills
Linthwaite



The
STORY OF WOOL





PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM A HAND PAINTING.
BACK VIEW OF THE MILL DONE PERHAPS 30 YEARS AGO.

The STORY *of* WOOL *and the* WOOL INDUSTRY

THE FIRST USE OF WOOL

OUR remote forefathers of Great Britain clad themselves during the cold season in furs. When the summer solstice came on, they cast off their furs, and painted their bodies with woad, a vegetable juice expressed from a plant of that name. In later days, furs were reserved for the exclusive use of the nobility, and the common population clothed themselves mostly in hides and sheepskins. The sheepskin, or part of one, often lasted the labourer during the period of his natural life.

The first advance towards improved clothing was the combing of wool. This, in the beginning, was to some extent a natural operation, the wool being torn off the sheep in their encounters with briars, thorny bushes and projections from trees and rocks against which the animals rubbed themselves. These accumulations were gathered, spun into a rude yarn, and made into a still ruder fabric by the handicraftsmen or handicraftswomen of the time. Later, an improvement was effected by taking the wool directly off the sheep's back. Then, the first manufacture of wool in this country may be considered to have been established.

We learn from Pliny that the Romans started a Wool Factory for the needs of the Roman Army of occupation in England. But when the Romans left, they carried their craft with them, and we had (long after) to get Flemings to come over and instruct us in the art of weaving. At that time, large exportations of English raw wool were being made to the Low Countries ; but when we had learnt all we wanted from the Flemish Weavers, these exportations were stopped. The penalty for infringement was heavy ; no less than hanging.

To the City of London Merchants, who had managed to secure a concession giving them the sole right to export wool, this enactment must have proved a heavy blow. It was that patriotic Monarch, Edward III who prohibited the export of wool, testifying in addition his solicitude for the welfare of the woollen industry by occasionally wearing woollen garments on his Royal person.

Later on, a successor of Edward III, Charles the II, with a providential regard for native industry considerably at variance with his reputed character, issued an Ordinance to the effect that all dead bodies should be wrapped in woollen garments. This grisly enactment, however, though preserved on the Statute Book for 120 years, met with scant observance.

WOOL INDUSTRY OF THE 17th CENTURY



AT the close of the 17th Century, the British Wool Industry was incomparably the most important source of wealth in the country. It had then attained an annual output value of some £8,000,000 of which exports to the amount of £2,000,000 went abroad.

The evolution of the Spinning Frame and Power Loom by British inventors rendered England the definite world home of the Woollen Cloth Industry. The change in the appearance and habits of the labouring classes effected by the introduction of spinning and weaving machinery would, to us, be almost inconceivable. Prior to the introduction of machine made fabrics, one cloth garment descended from wearer to wearer in the family until it literally fell to pieces.

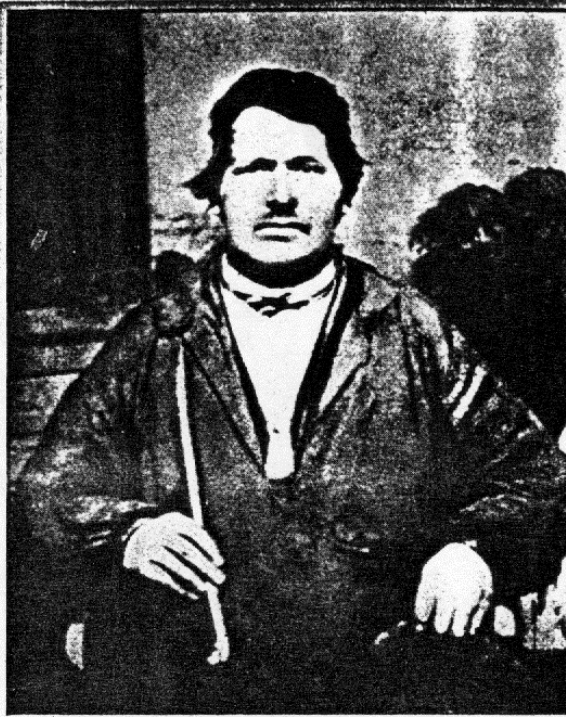
The English Wool Industry gradually settled in several well-defined localities, among the chief of which were Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds and Dewsbury in Yorkshire, the West of England, and the Lowthians of Scotland. It was more specially centred in that part of Yorkshire where the coal deposits met the wool supply of the northern portion of the country. Much wool, however, began to be imported, and the industry flourished and increased to such a degree, that within a brief period it was found that we were making more woollen fabrics than we could possibly consume, and it became imperative to seek new markets.

These markets could only be found in foreign lands ; and then the British Commercial Traveller came on the scene the British Commercial Traveller to whom the Mercantile, as well as the Imperial Interests of this country owe a debt which has never been fully acknowledged. He penetrated into all parts of the world, and in pursuit of his mission was indirectly responsible in a considerable degree for the foundation of the British Empire. The adage " Trade follows the Flag " is a fiction mainly intended for the glorification of the Navy and Army. In fact, Trade precedes the Flag as a natural necessity.

TO the Early English Manufacturing Houses must be ascribed the introduction of honest trading, against the huckstering methods and elastic prices, which, up to their advent, had been the customary method of transacting business throughout the world. Honest value, and fixed uniform prices to all and everyone, soon stamped a special character upon British Trading, which introduced a new standard of integrity into international trade, and gained for the English a reputation for straightforwardness and honesty which has become proverbial.

Many of these early Ancestral Houses as they may be called, have practically lost their identity, submerged one after the other under the wave of mergers, combines and amalgamations which are such a prevalent feature of the present day.

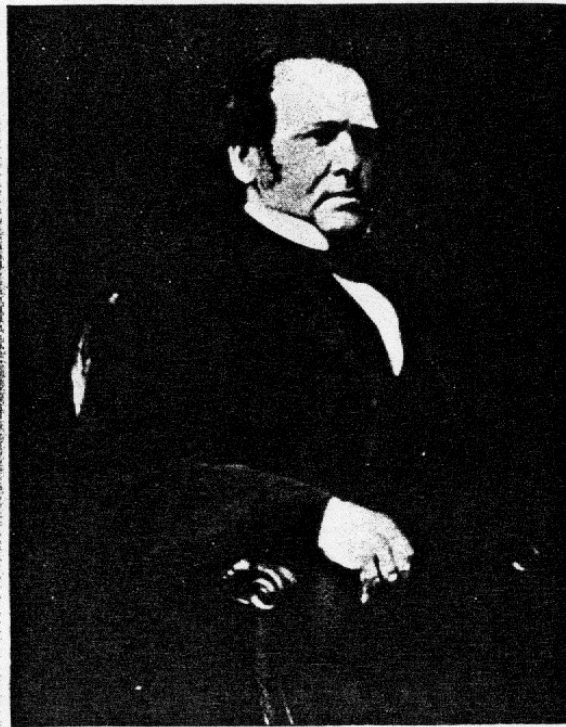
Some of these very old-established undertakings, however, still continue to maintain their individual personality, and stand out like landmarks in a featureless industrial world ; and one of these is the House of George Mallinson & Sons, of Linthwaite, Huddersfield, whose history covers the greater portion of the last century, as briefly recounted in the following pages.



1818

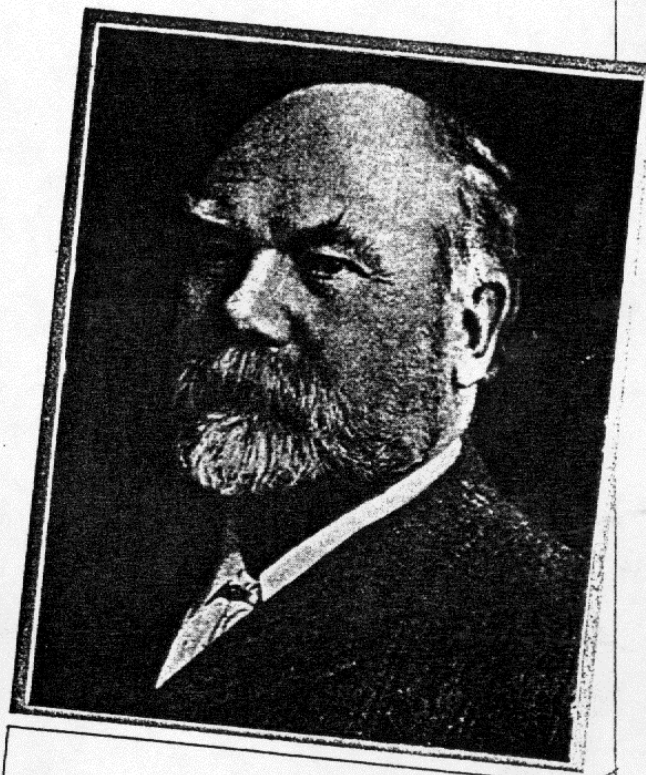
GEORGE MALLINSON

1888

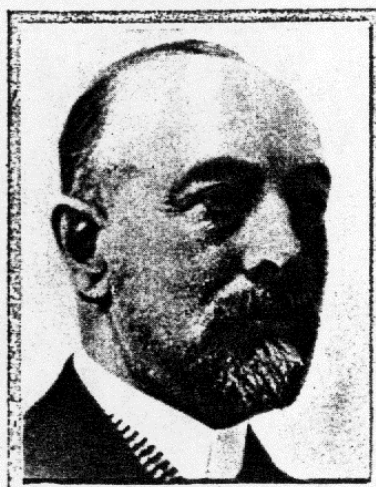




ELI MALLINSON

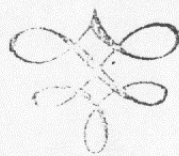


THOMAS MALLINSON



ARTHUR SYKES

A brief HISTORY of the House of GEORGE MALLINSON AND SONS LTD



GEORGE MALLINSON & SONS, LTD. undoubtedly owe much of their present flourishing condition to the shrewd foresight, business acumen, and sterling character of their founder. George Mallinson was born in 1818 and he was scarcely twenty-two when in 1840 he commenced the business that to-day has grown into one of the largest woollen manufacturing firms in the world.

As was the habit in those days, George Mallinson started by employing craftsmen who worked in their own houses, often assisted by wife and family, keeping two or three looms at work. Known as "domestic Industry" this system was, even then, beginning to die out with the transference of hand work to the machine. But despite this, George Mallinson continued for some time using home labour with profitable results, probably because the unquestionable reliability of his cloths was preferred to the indifferent quality that was produced by the more or less primitive machinery of this period.

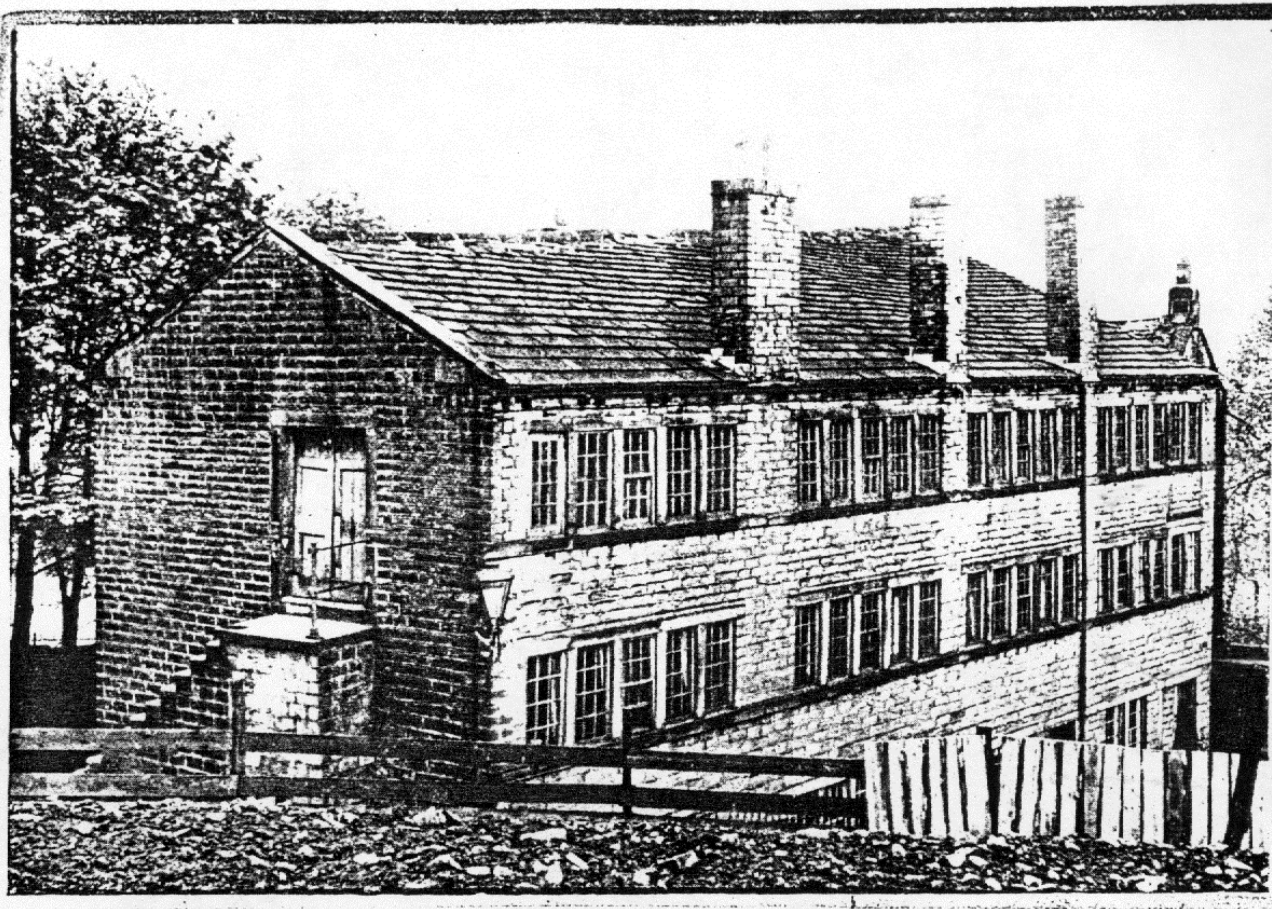
Nevertheless, George Mallinson watched the gradual perfecting of the machinery with observant eye, and when, despite the mushroom growth of the cotton industry, the demand for woollens was rapidly increasing, he built his first mill. This was the first master move planned by that discriminating brain, which, though cautious with regard to a doubtful experiment, had no hesitation in taking advantage of a tried and perfected invention.



HERBERT MALLINSON



DYSON MALLINSON



WHERE THE BUSINESS WAS STARTED.

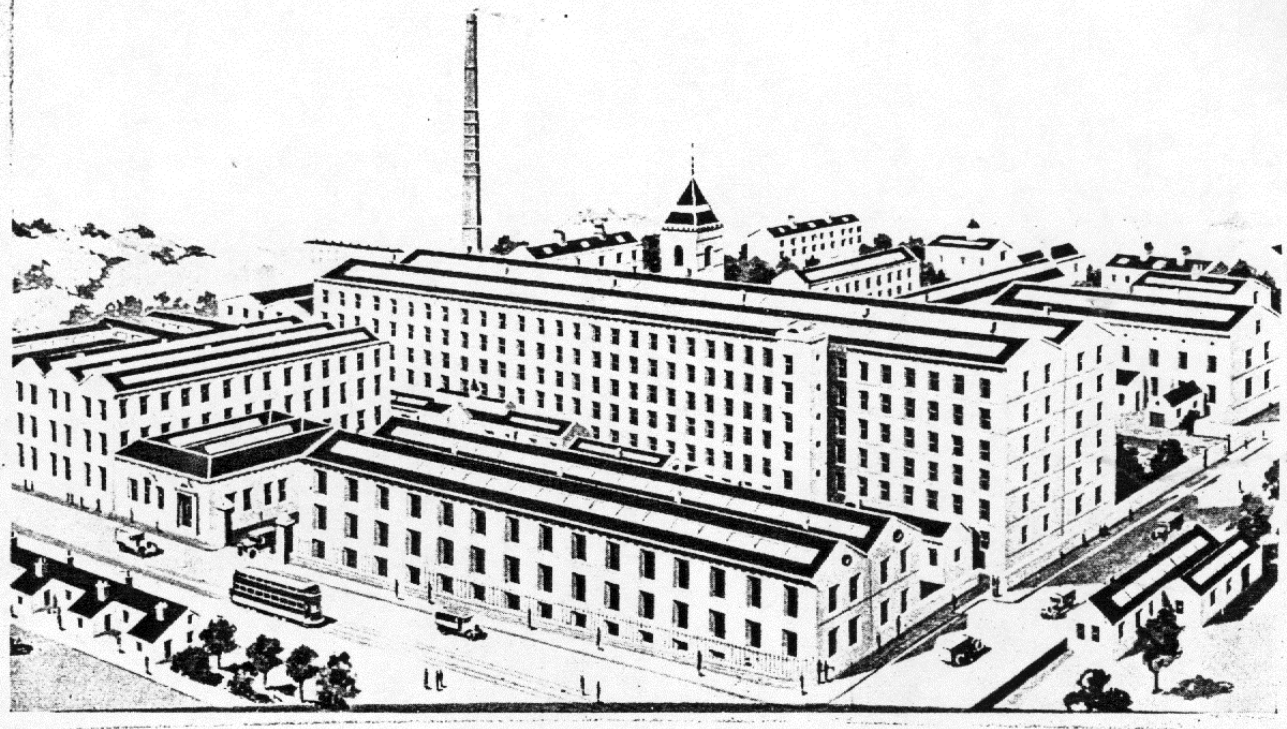
BUILT in 1857, his first factory accommodated forty looms and eighty workers. It was made with stone base and wooden upper storey and was situated on the hill-side, typical of the hundreds of other mills that sprang up about that time. But behind the typical small mill of that period was the exceptional driving force and character of the man. George Mallinson's little mill soon forged ahead of others, and in 1873 a larger mill was constructed, necessitated by work sufficient to justify increasing his looms to seventy, and his employees to a hundred and fifty. Obviously he must have been working on a definite policy. Judging by his actions, "Satisfied workers are careful workers" must have been his motto, and simple as it may sound, if



MR. G. D. MALLINSON



MR. R. PLATT



LATEST PICTURE OF THE MILLS.

examined, it reveals once again the characteristically intelligent foresight of George Mallinson.

Careful work means appreciation—appreciation means more work—bigger output lowers the price, and lowered price means still bigger increase in business. George Mallinson was always attentive to his workers' needs, and the firm bearing his name to-day carries on the work with the same guiding principles.

It was with the eager co-operation of these contented workers that George Mallinson was able in 1884 to again extend his mill to accommodate a hundred and twenty looms and two hundred and eighty busy operatives.



MR. H. E. BAXTER

Representative for the North and West of
England, Midland Counties and Ireland.



MR. J. C. BROOK

Resident London Representative, also
covering Eastern Counties.

A YEAR after the new mill was opened and the business soundly established on lines which were then the most modern and progressive, George Mallinson died and was succeeded by his two sons, Eli and Thomas, both of whom were fortunately endowed in an extraordinary degree with the qualities of their father. Already conversant with the intricate details of the business, and fully aware of the development of which it was capable, they were quick to avail themselves of every opportunity which gave promise of expansion. They were ably assisted in their efforts first by Herbert, the eldest son of Eli, who is now Chairman of Directors, and later by his youngest son, Dyson. When in 1899 the business was formed into a private limited company, these two sons and Arthur Sykes, who had joined the firm the previous year, were made directors.

Thomas Mallinson retired in 1903, and Eli died in 1909. By this time the mills at Linthwaite, standing on almost the same spot as the original one, were working 153 looms and employing 500 work people.

To cope with the demand for Mallinson cloths, which was in no small measure due to the requirements of shippers for export trade, and which grew more quickly than looms and skilled workers could be obtained, it was found necessary in 1913 to take over another Huddersfield mill and utilize their workpeople and the forty looms owned by them. At the same time another additional building was in the course of erection at the main factory to accommodate the looms which were so urgently needed.

In 1918 occurred the death of Arthur Sykes, and then the present directors, Herbert and Dyson Mallinson, appointed as manager Reginald Platt, who had been assistant manager since 1912, and the business continued to progress not only at home, but in every one of the markets overseas where the name of Mallinson is known and respected.

Naturally, since 1840 the manufactures of the firm have varied to some extent. At one time, in addition to cloth, a large quantity of shawls and rugs was manufactured, but for the past twenty-five years Mallinson's have concentrated solely on cloths for men's wear, and to-day every process in the



1. Mr. A. EASTWOOD
2. Mr. A. BATTYE
3. Mr. J. HIRST
4. Mr. W. MALLINSON
5. Mr. W. PLATT
6. Mr. W. H. NORTH
7. Mr. W. P. NORTH



manufacture from the raw wool as it comes from the sheep's back to every kind of finished cloth ready for the tailor is carried out at the Spring Grove Mills.

Changed also is the character of the Mallinson export trade. From the termination of hostilities in 1918 instead of operating through shippers as previously, a better system was inaugurated by means of which nearly all foreign markets were dealt with direct. In this sphere, mention must be made of George Donald Mallinson, the son of Herbert Mallinson. Equally well known to the business men of Japan, Canada, America, and other foreign markets, as he is to those in Scotland or Lancashire, he has done much to cultivate the international reputation that the House of Mallinson now commands.

The present factory at Linthwaite covers many acres of land, accommodates two hundred and forty-six looms, twenty-one sets of condensers, and all other necessary machinery, and gives employment to anything from eight hundred and fifty to a thousand work-people.

Its efficiency never fails to arouse the interest and appreciation of the many friends and customers who visit it, all of whom are received and conducted round by either a director or the manager.

In conclusion, let it be added that although its mills are outwardly very unlike the tiny workshop that remains to this day the property of the firm, the House of George Mallinson & Sons, Ltd., still maintains the tradition of its founder, and is, we are proud to say, known throughout the world as a symbol of British enterprise, British quality, and British value.



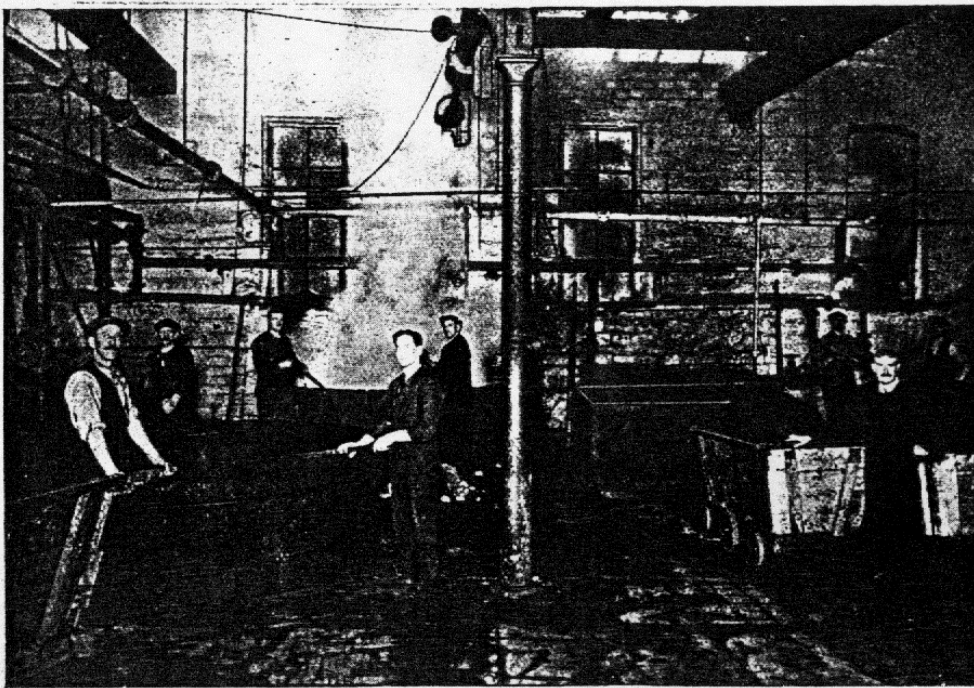


1. Mr. E. SMITH
2. Mr. G. ROBERTSHAW
3. Mr. J. HAIGH
4. Mr. A. BERRY
5. Mr. H. PEARCE
6. Mr. H. DAWSON
7. Mr. H. SYKES
8. Mr. P. MALLINSON

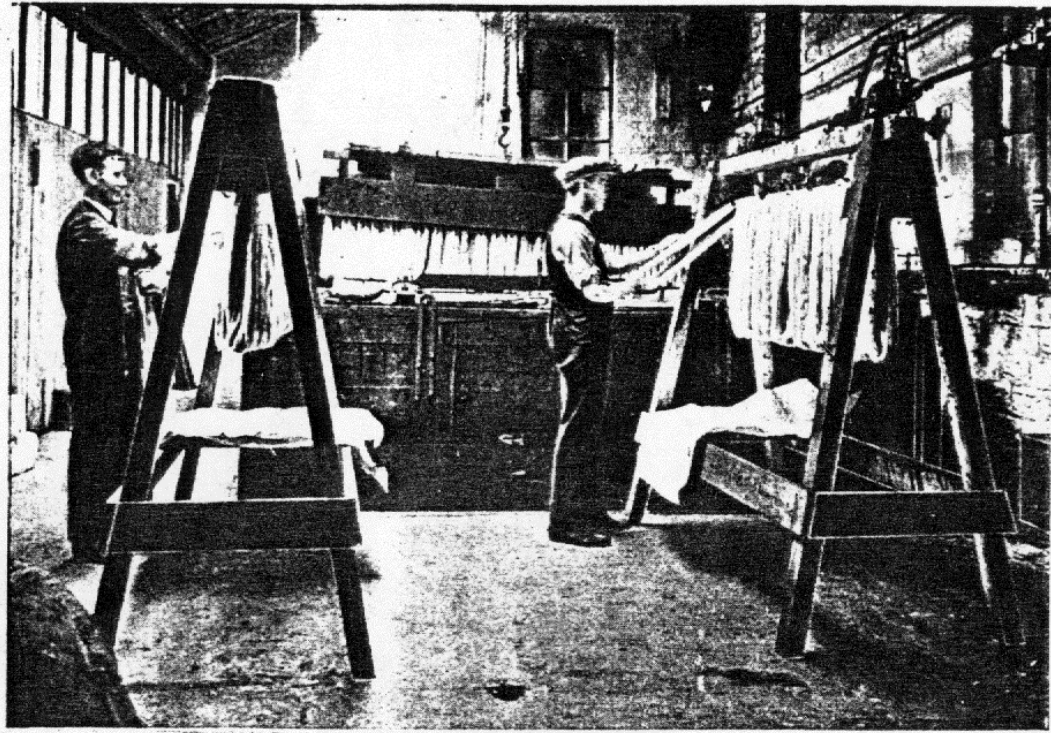




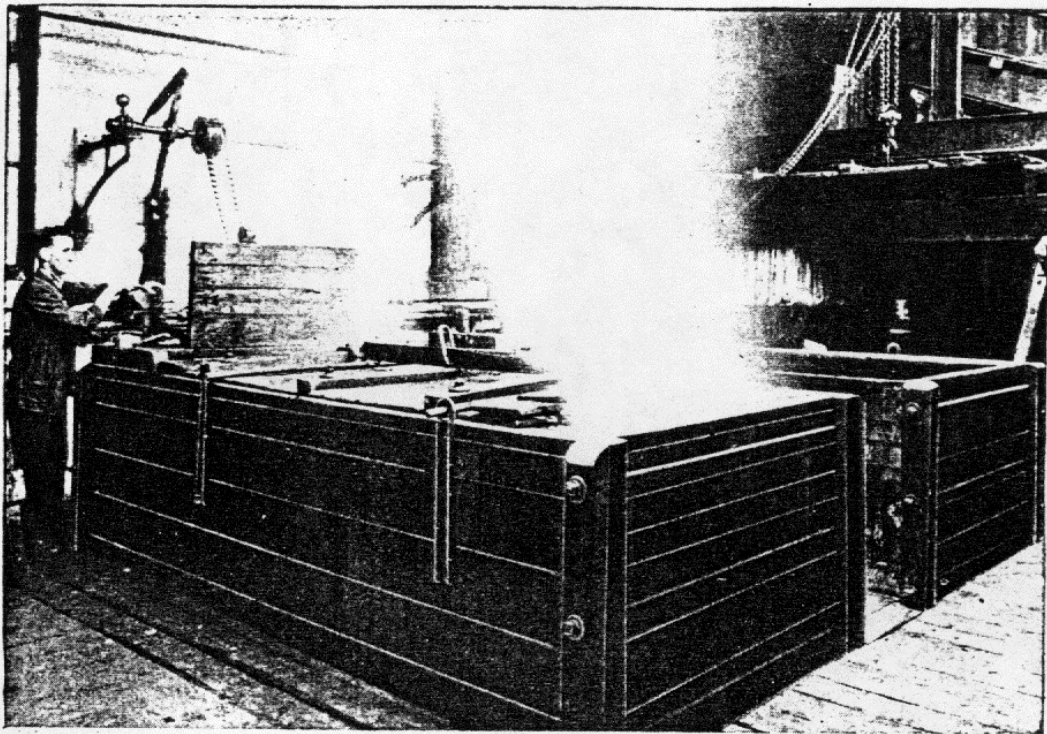
WOOL SHEDS AND STORAGE.



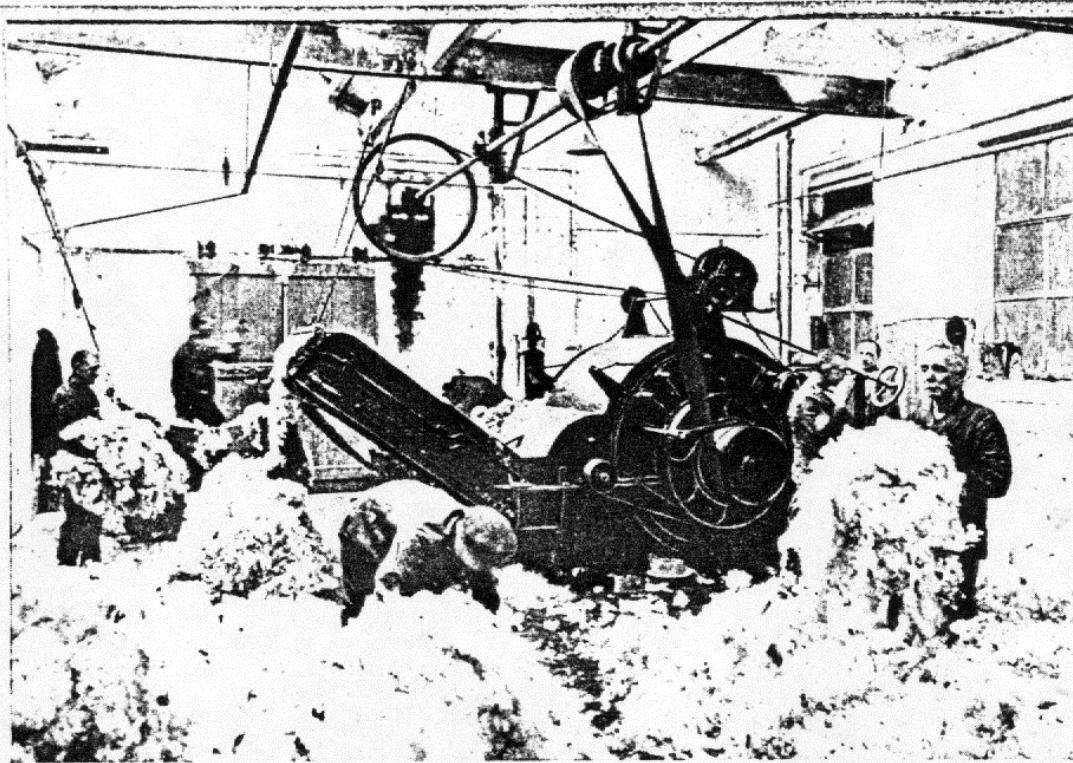
RAW MATERIALS DYEHOUSE.



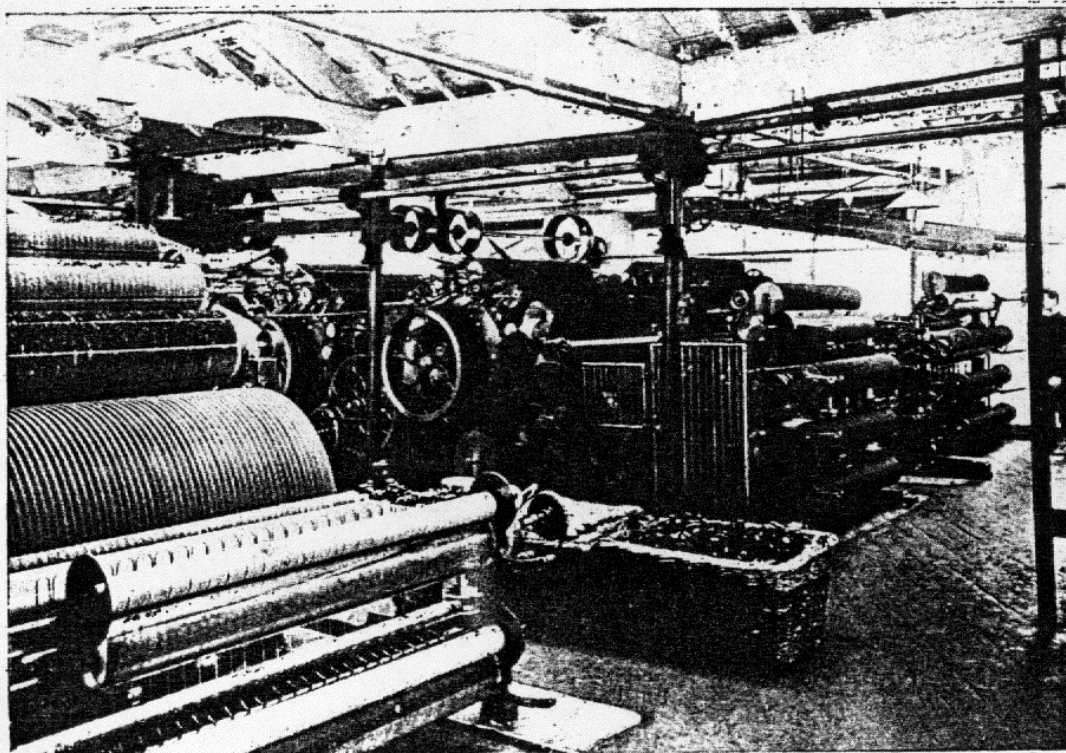
YARN DYEHOUSE.



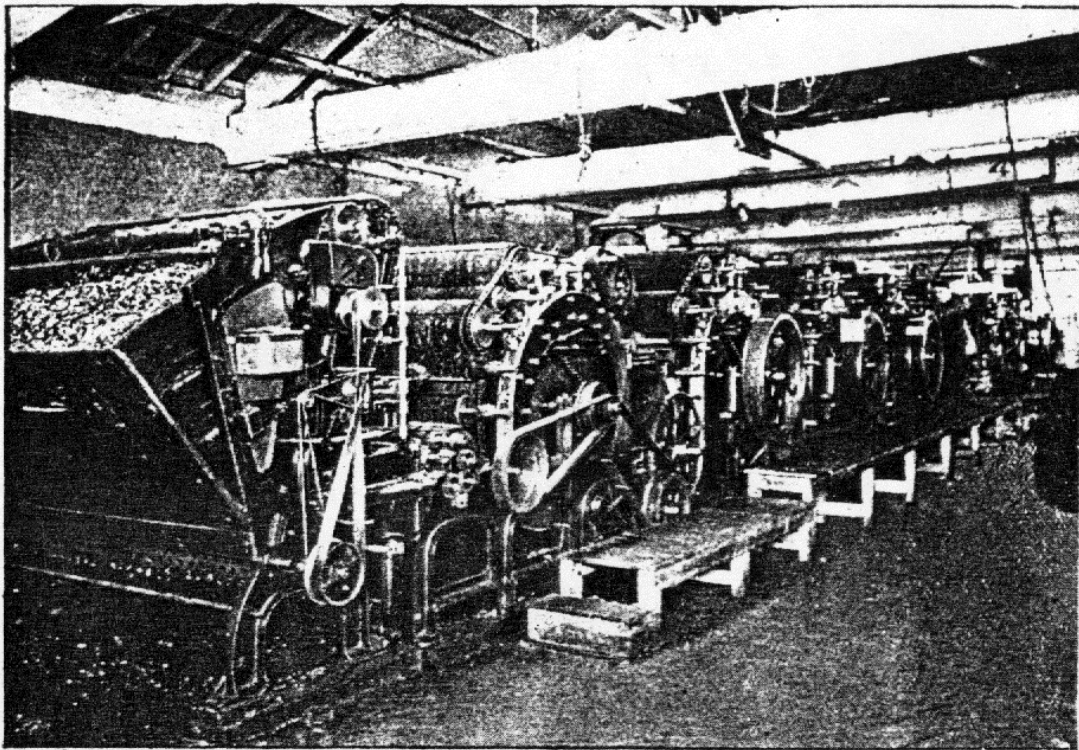
YARN DYEHOUSE.



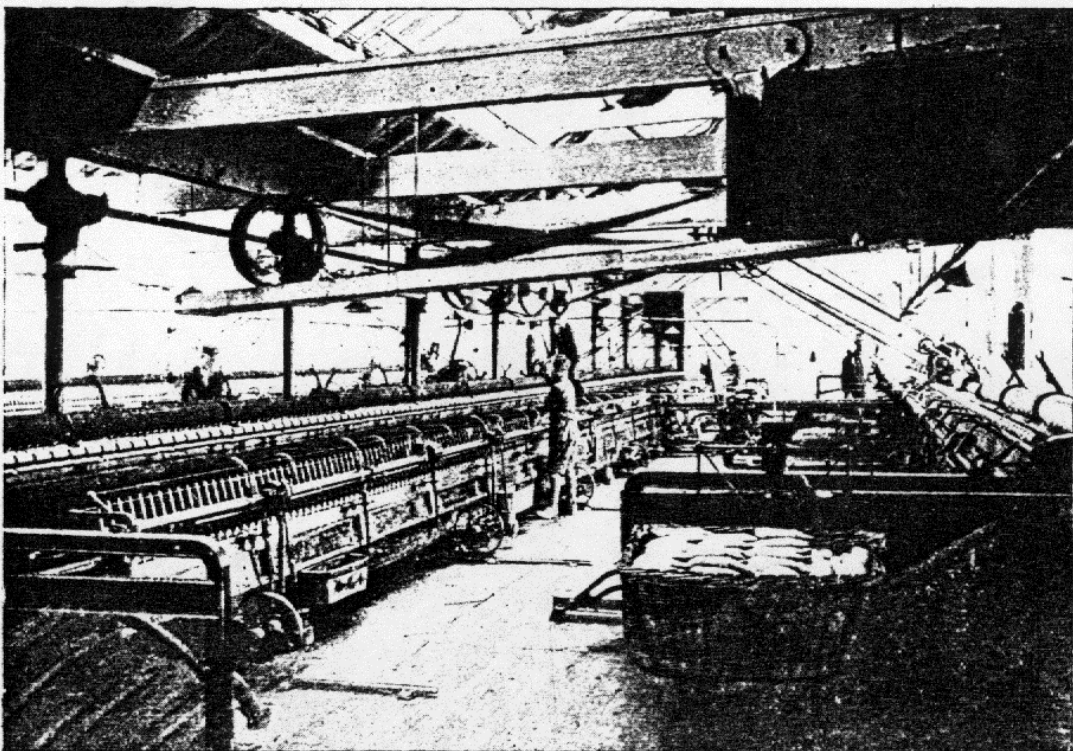
MIXING DEPT.



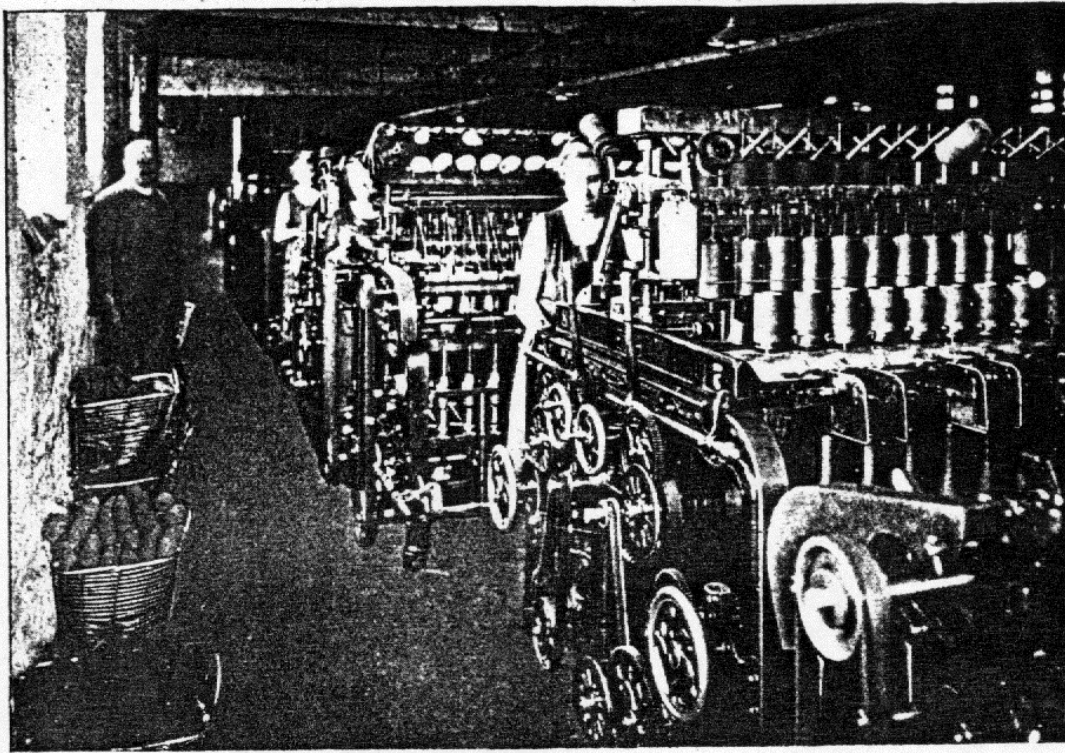
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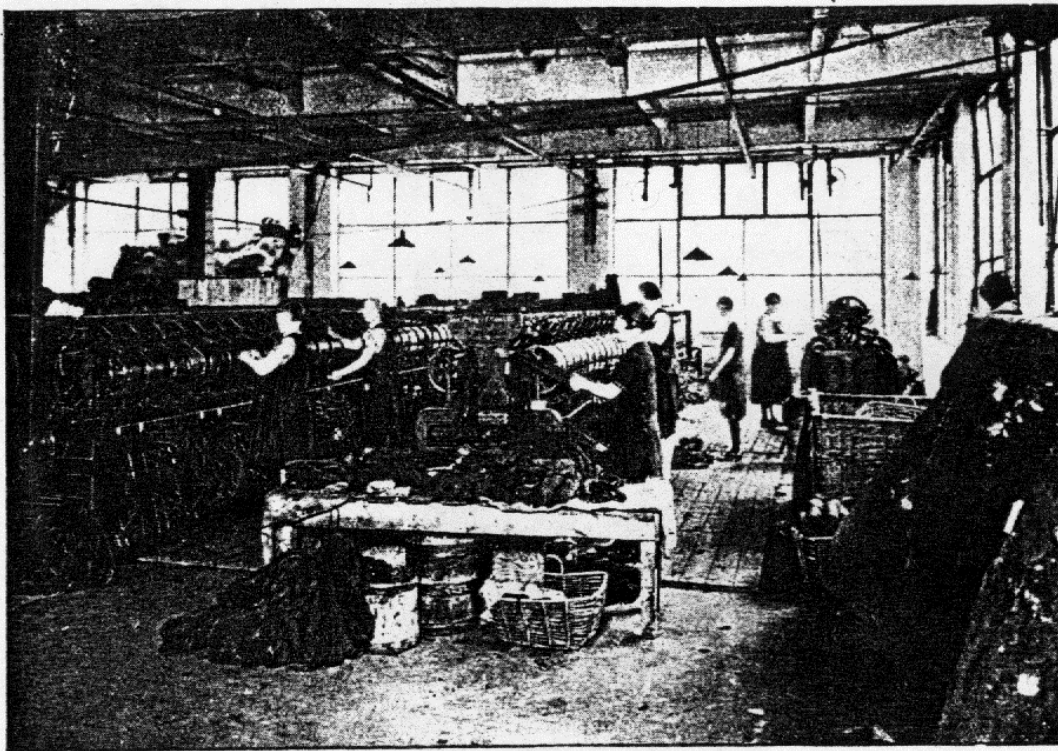
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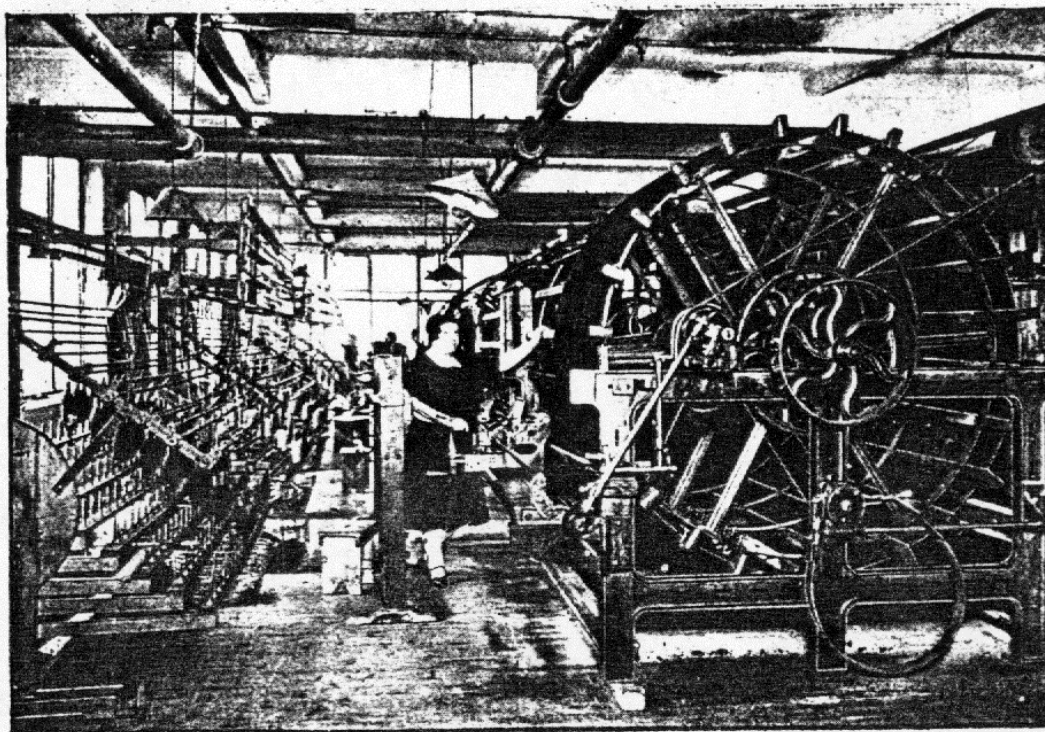
SPINNING DEPT.



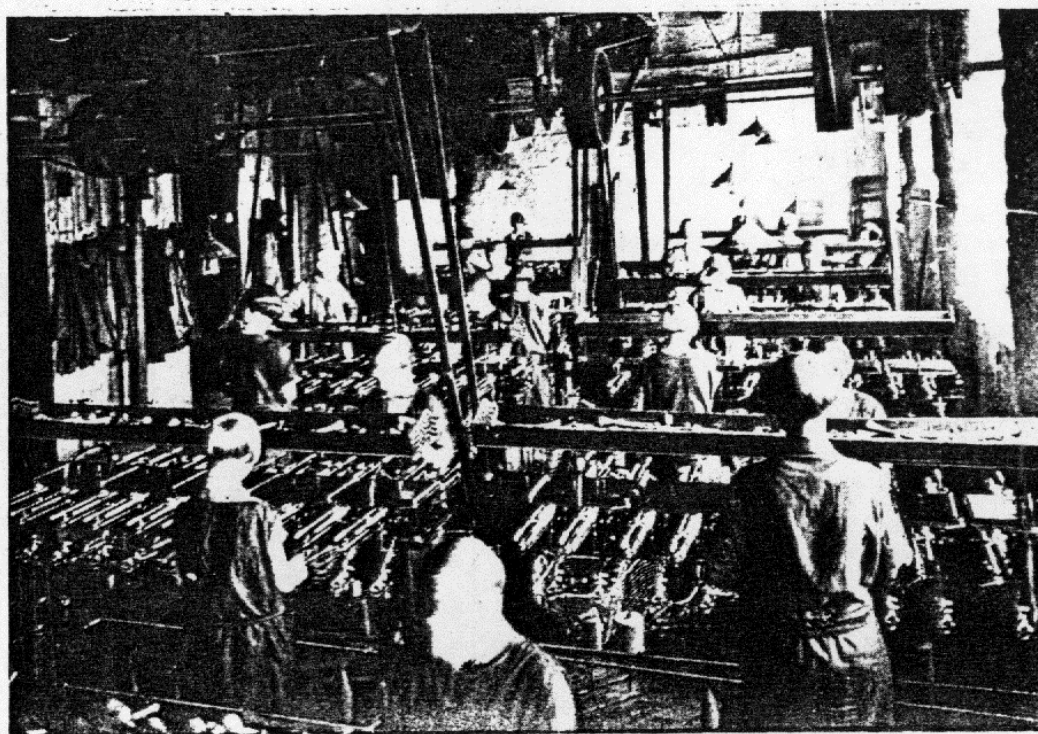
TWISTING DEPT.



HANK WINDING.



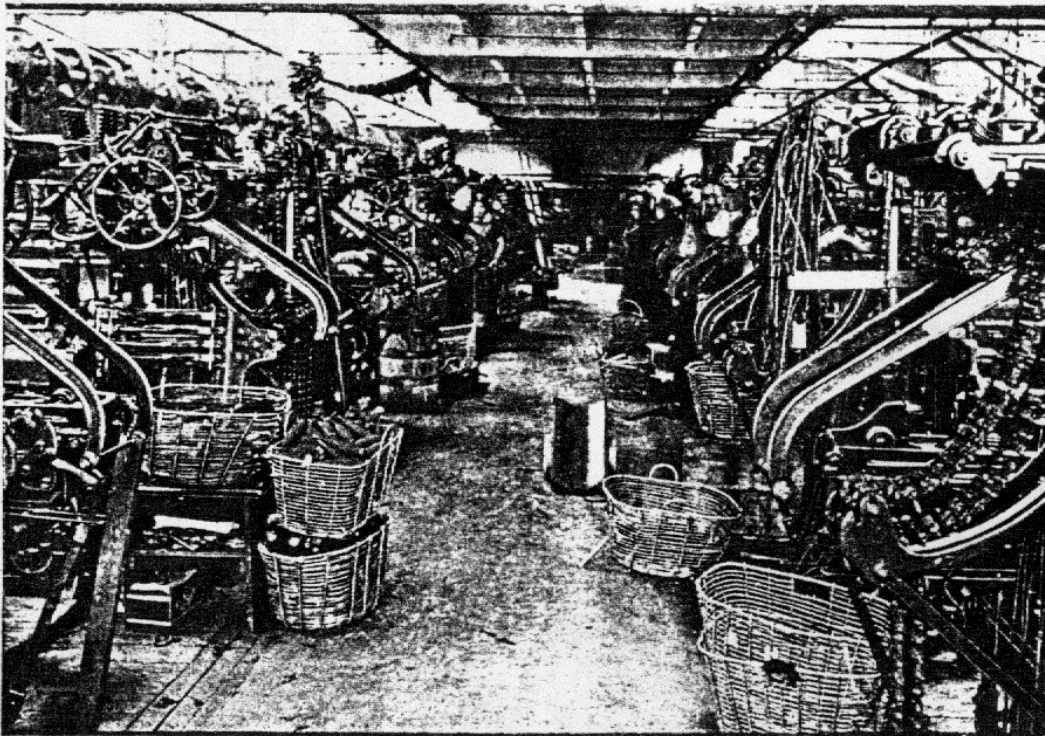
WARPING.



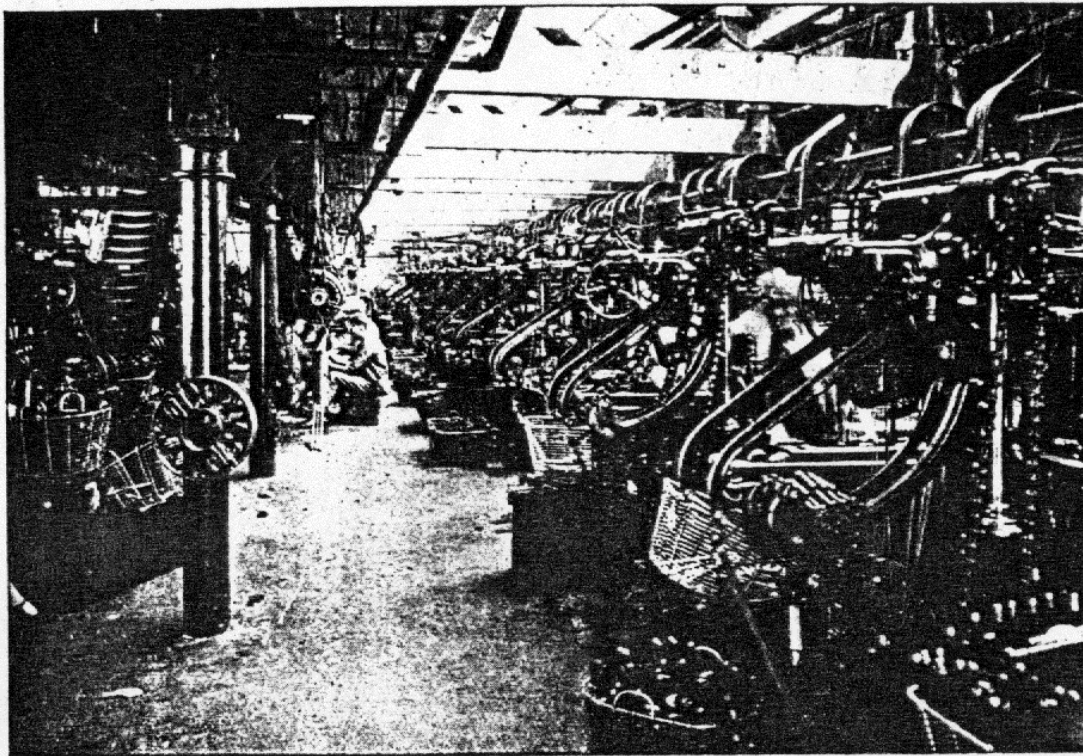
WEFT WINDING.



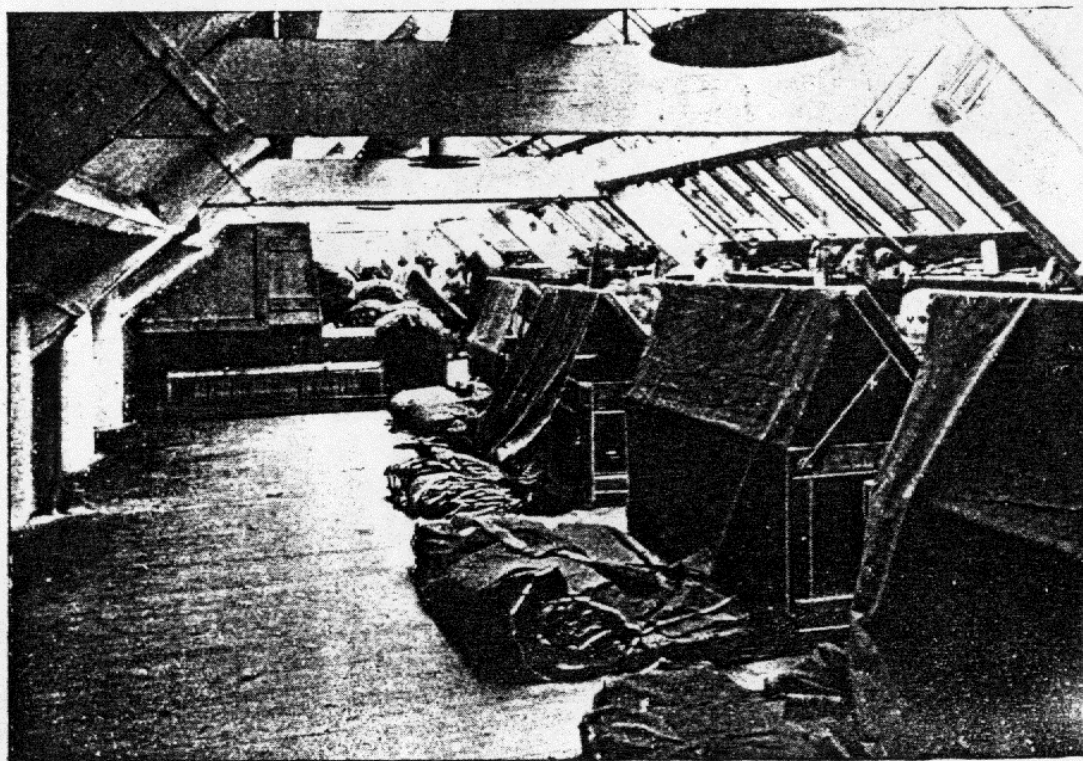
WEFT WINDING.



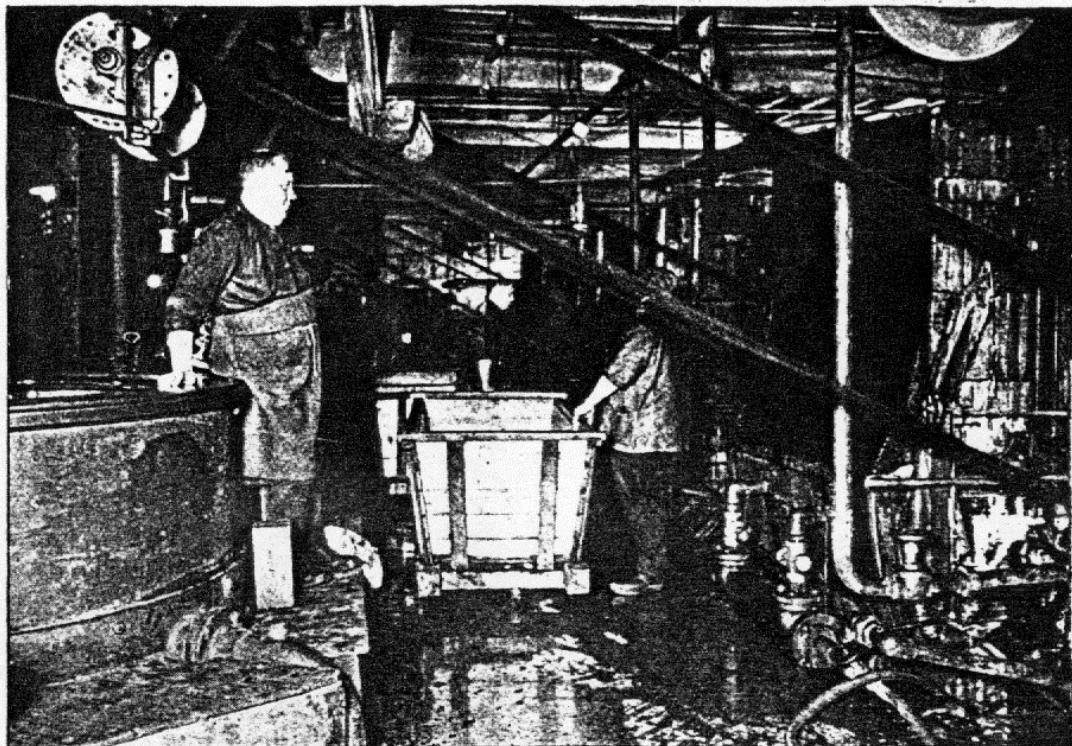
WEAVING.



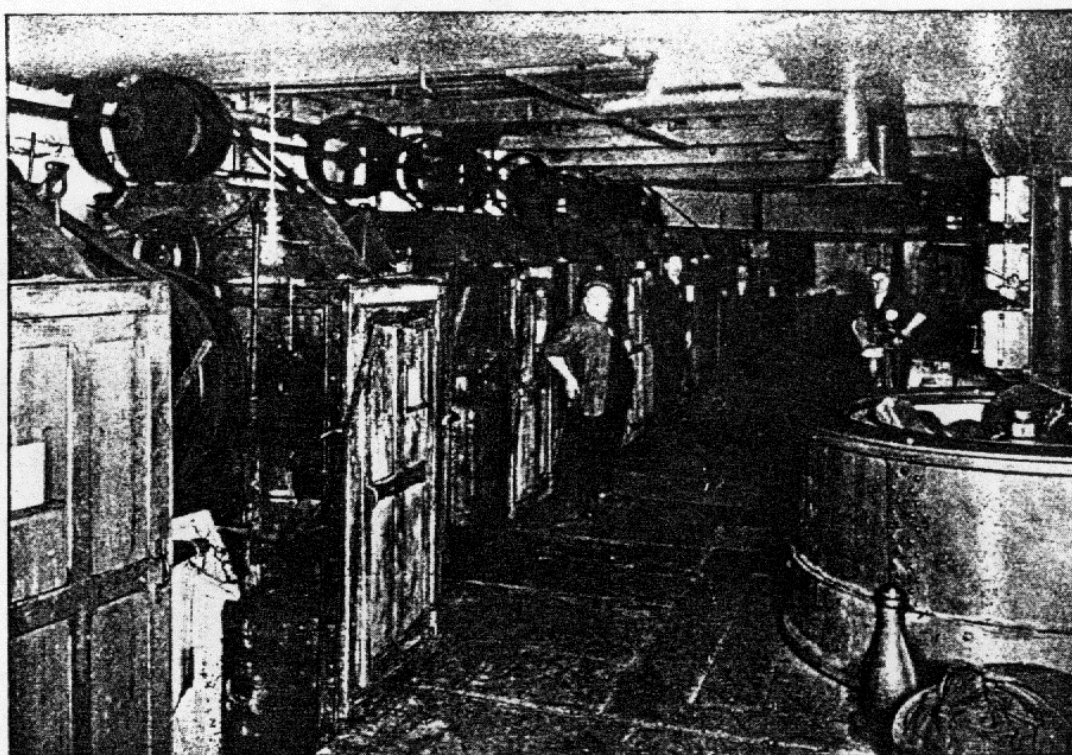
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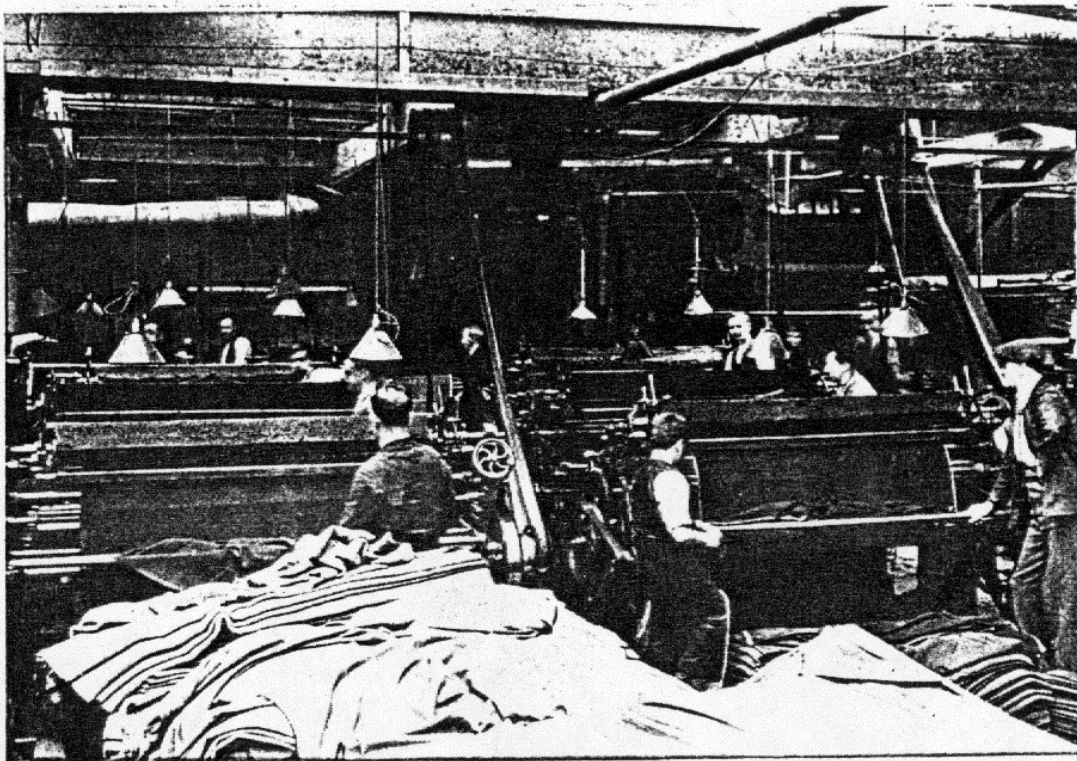
MENDING.



SCOURING OR WASHING.



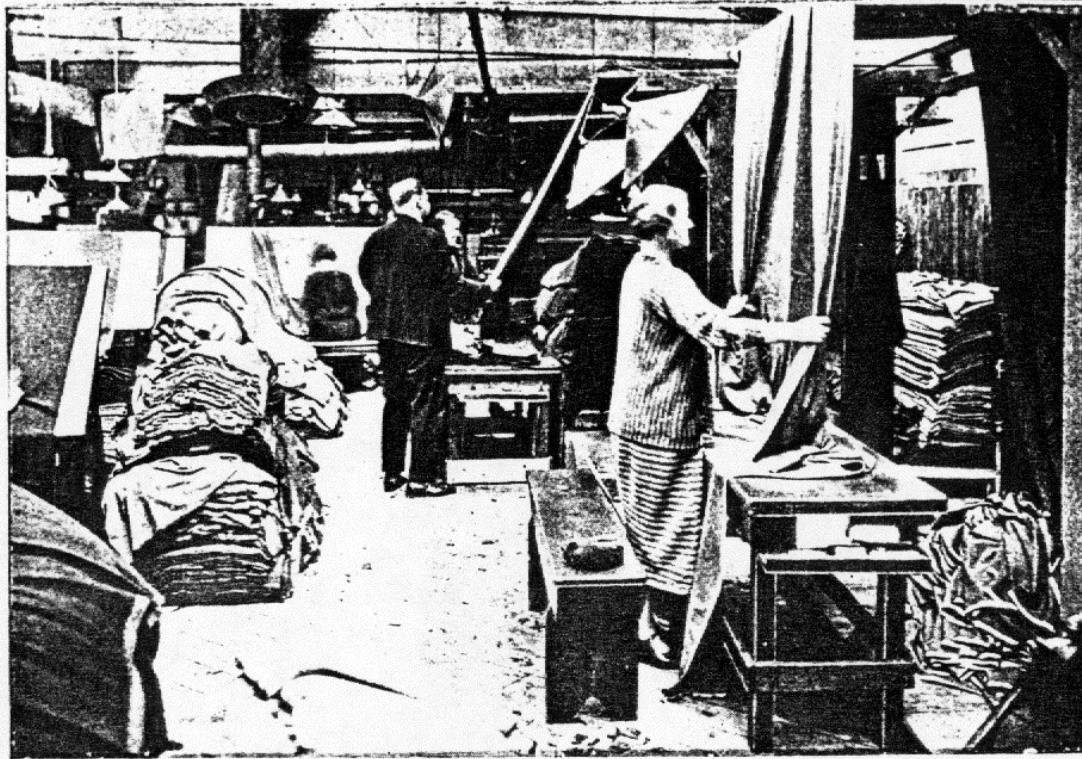
MILLING.



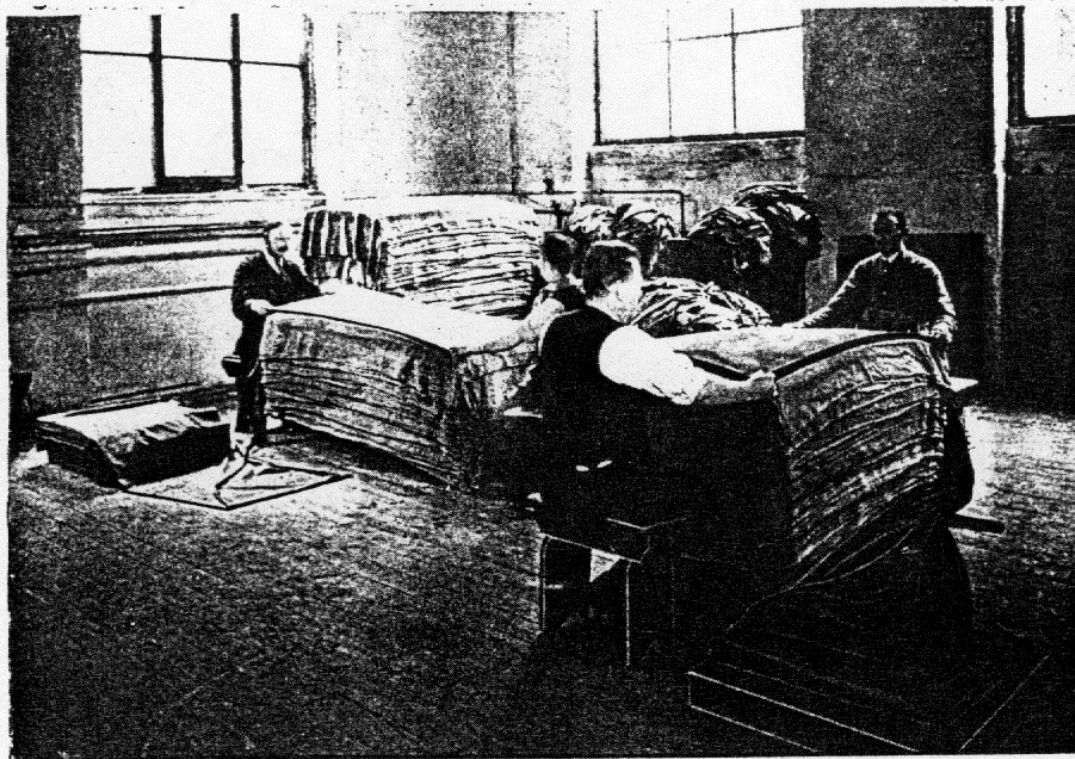
CUTTING ROOM, FINISHING DEPT.



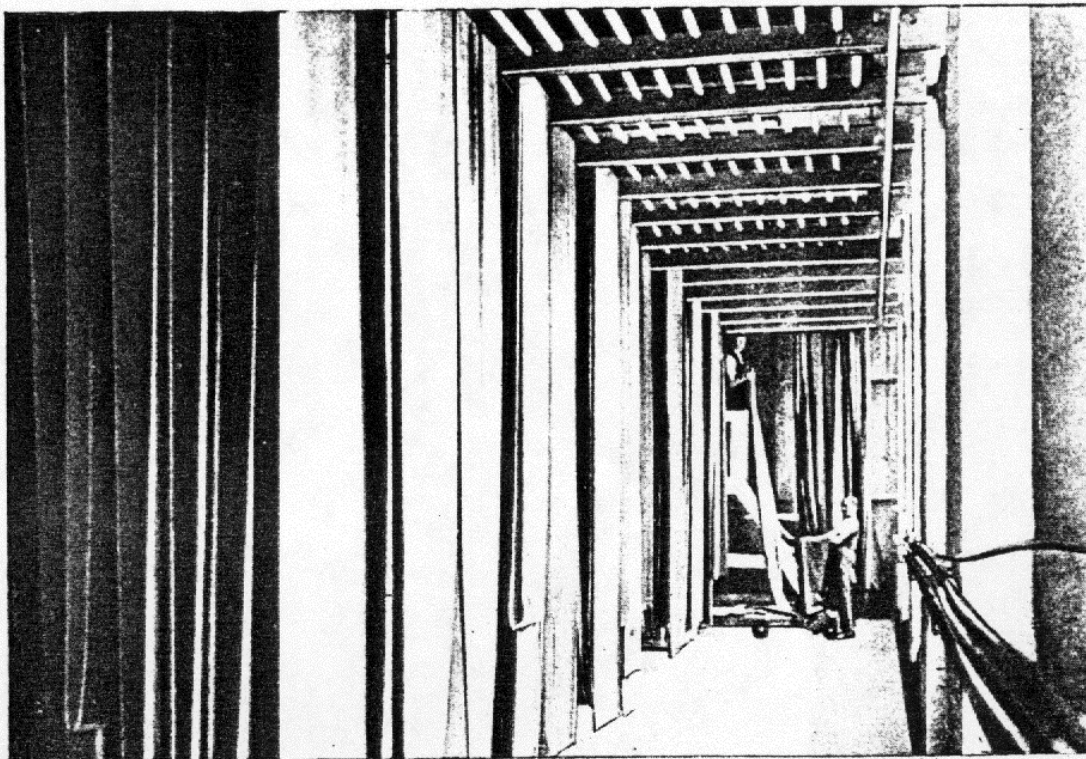
PERCHING ROOM, WORSTEDS.



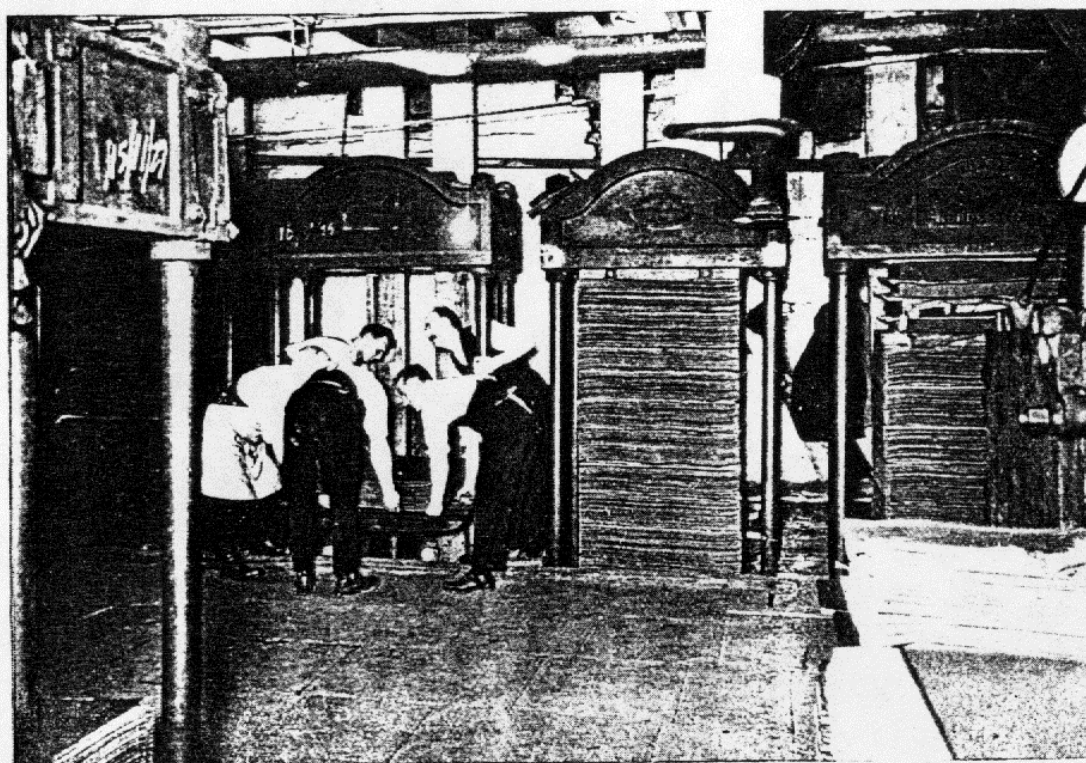
PERCHING ROOM, WOOLLENS.



SHRINKING PROCESS.



DRYING ROOM FOR SHRINKING PROCESS.



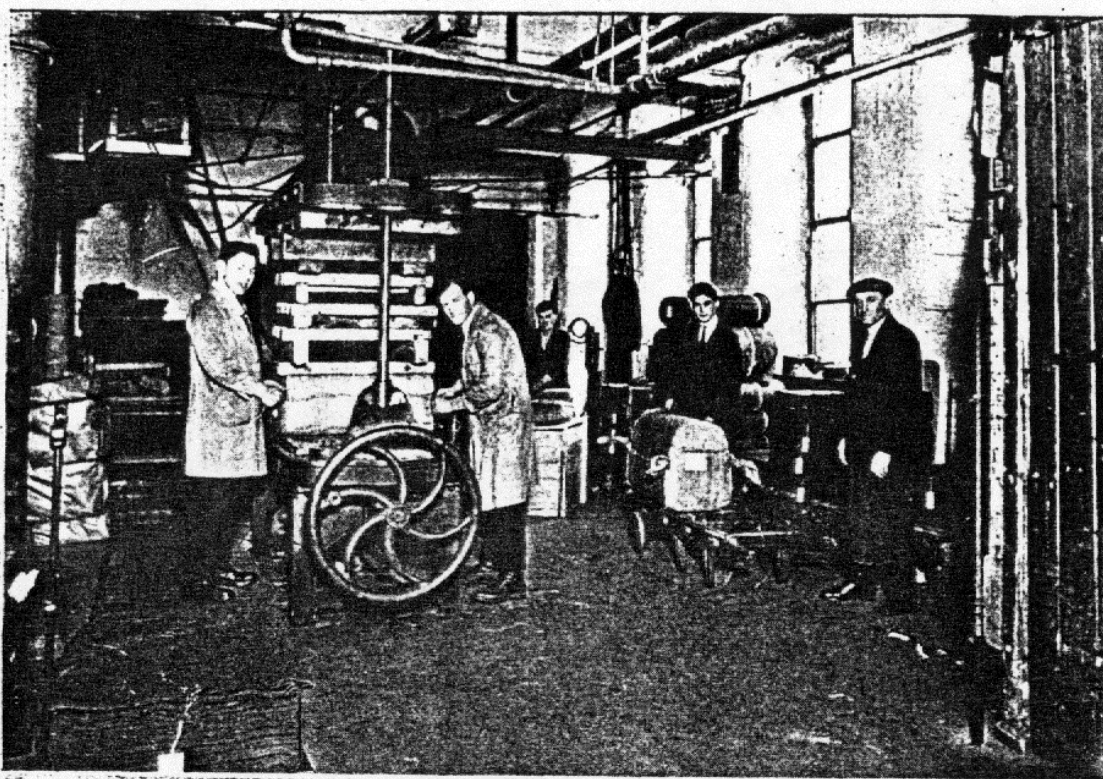
PRESSING ROOM, FINISHING DEPT.



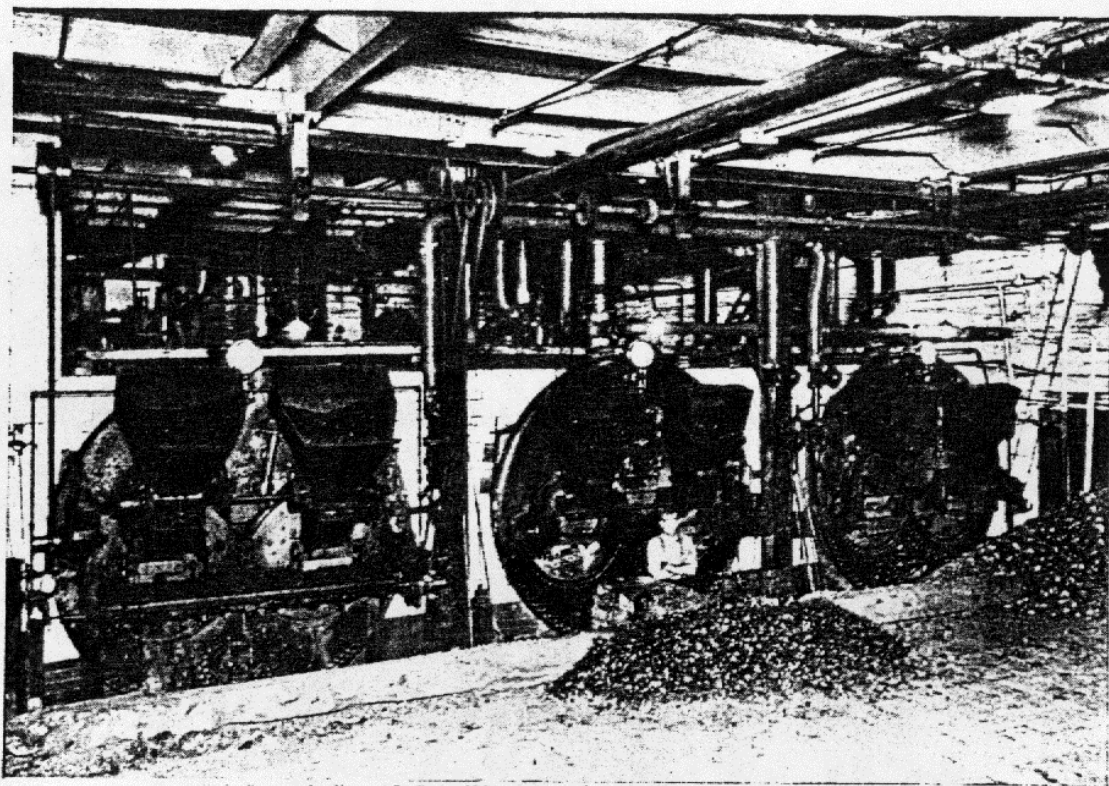
WAREHOUSE.



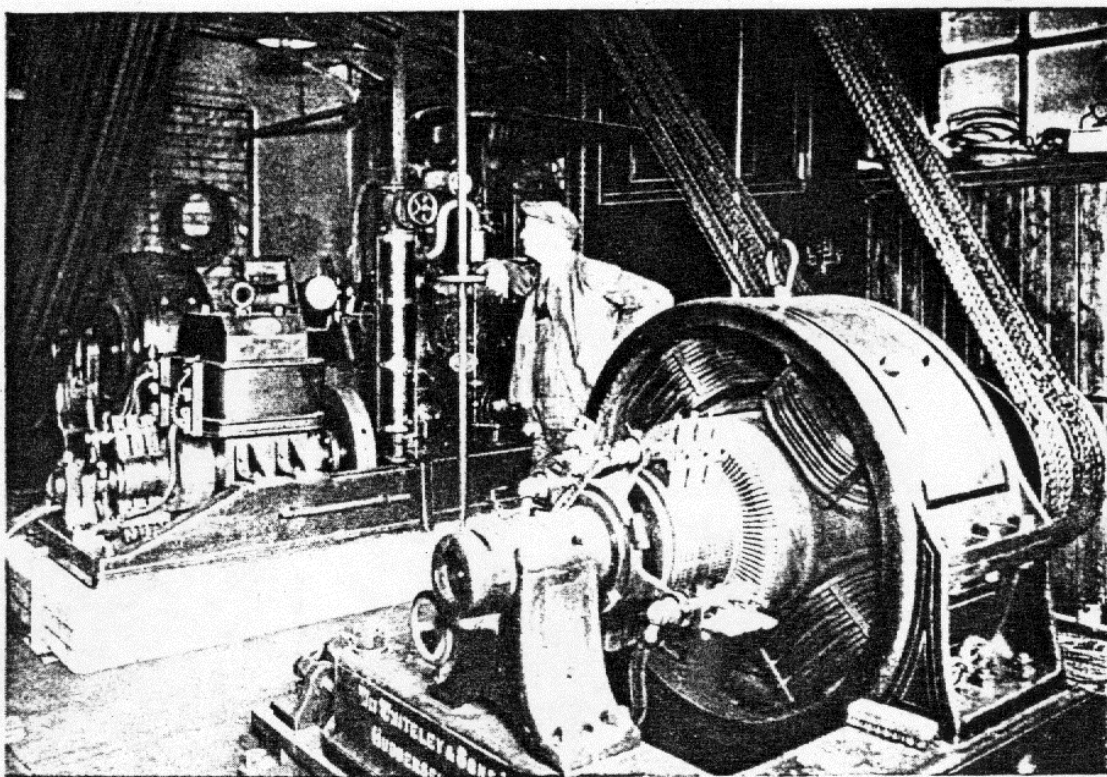
PATTERN ROOM.



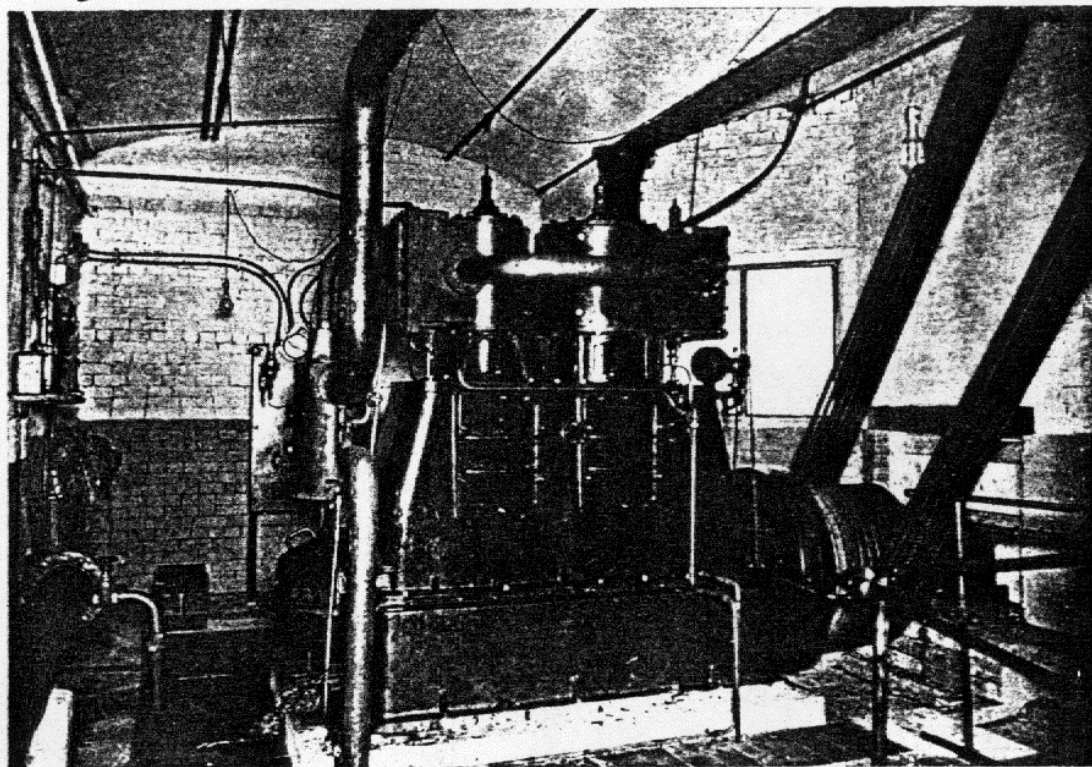
PACKING DEPT.



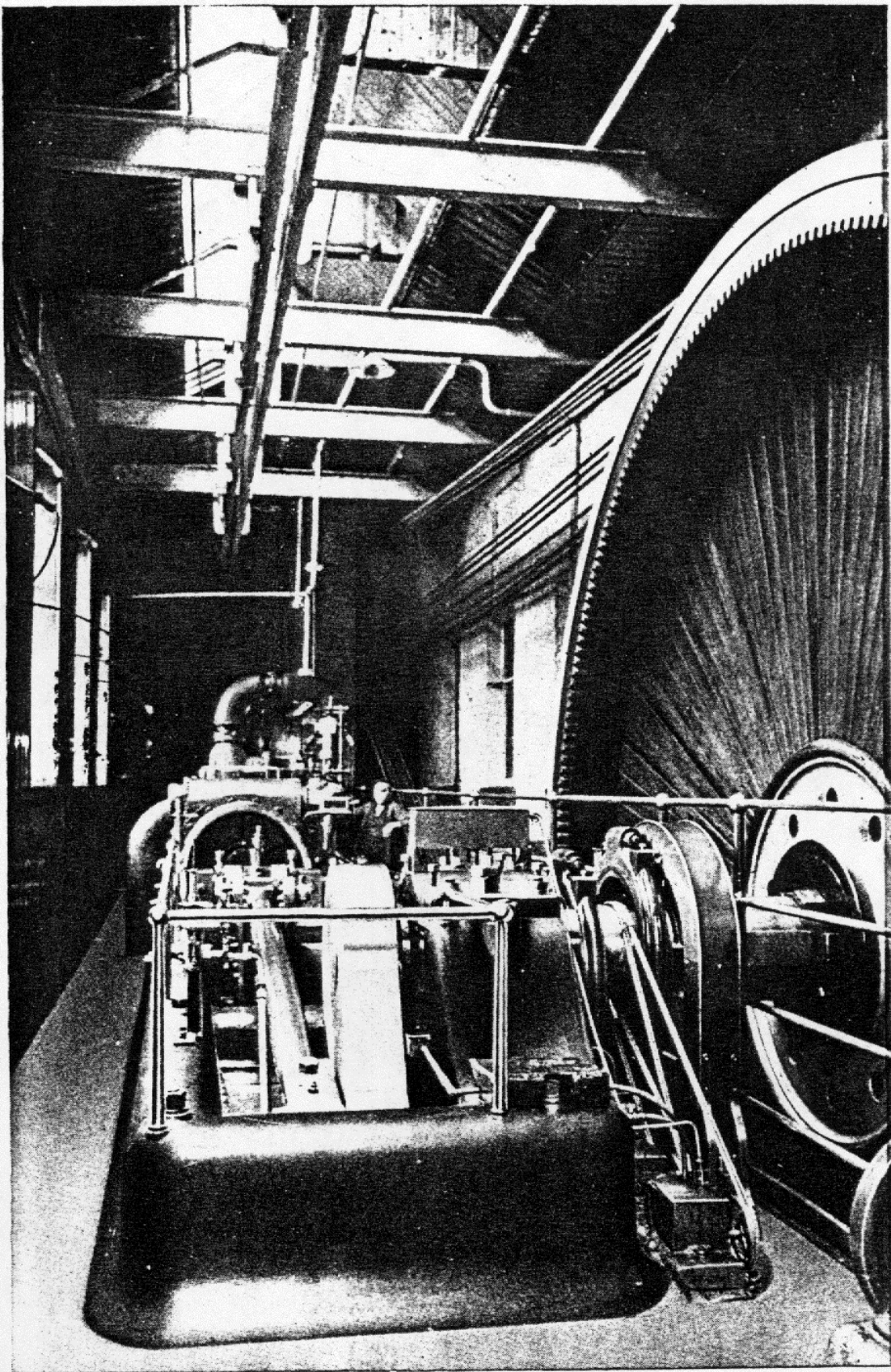
BOILER HOUSE.



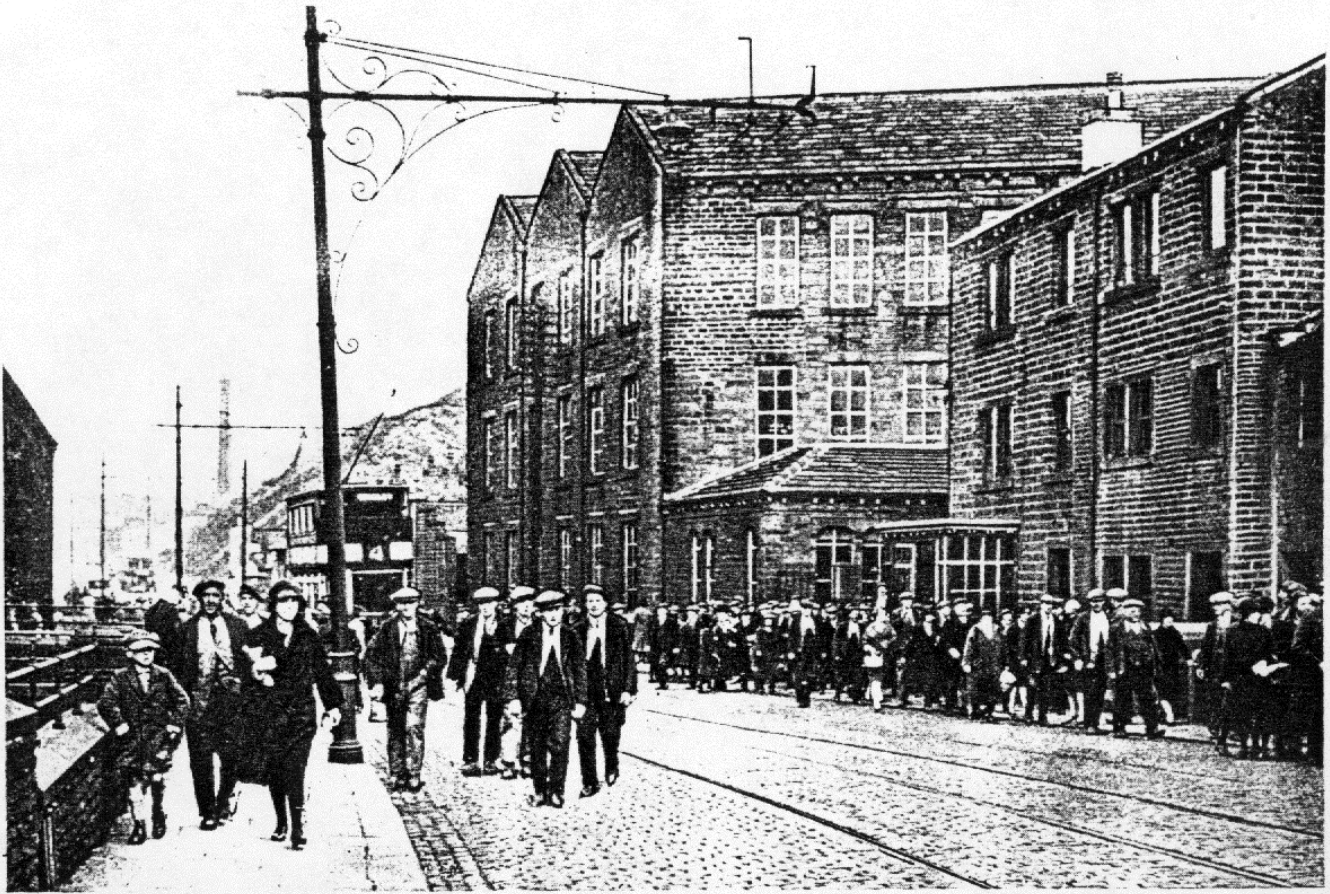
ELECTRIC MOTIVE POWER ROOM.



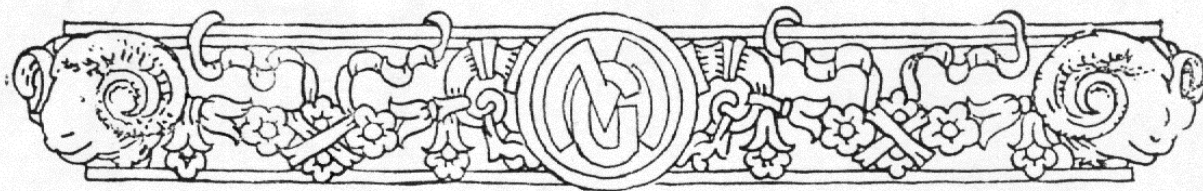
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