

though the name of Hibbert, Platt, & Sons was retained until 1854. By this time, however, the concern had quite outgrown the capacities of the earlier management, and with the admission of Mr. William Frederick Palmer, Mr. William Richardson, and Mr. Edmund Hartley, into partnership the name and style of the firm was changed to Platt Brothers & Company. The new partners had for a long period occupied important positions in the concern, and the impetus of their accession to authority was soon evidenced by a further expansion of its operations.

In 1864 Mr. Eli Spencer was taken into partnership and four years later the whole concern was converted into a limited liability company. The principle of allotting proprietary shares in the profits of the concern to the heads of the various departments was also adopted, to ensure that live interest in efficiency which so largely contributes to success.

The first chairman of the company was Mr. John Platt, the premier partner in the industry. His name and services to the borough of Oldham are fully recognised by its inhabitants. For several years he was an alderman of the town, and in 1861 filled also the Mayoral chair, while from 1865 to the time of his death in May, 1872, he represented the borough in Parliament. A monument erected to his memory in the centre of the town testifies to the high esteem in which his name is held. He was succeeded as chairman of the company by his son, Mr. Samuel Radcliffe Platt, who continued the municipal work with which his father had for so long been associated. He filled the position of mayor, was a justice of the Peace in the borough, and in 1897 discharged the duties of High Sheriff of Lancashire. On his death in September, 1902, he was succeeded by the vice-chairman, Mr. John Dodd. The present directors are :—

George William Needham, Chairman.

Henry Platt Hall, Vice-Chairman.

Thomas Rodgerson Marsden, J.P.

John Stafford Nuttall.

Thomas Taylor.

Frank Waugh Chadderton.

Charles Arthur Hempstock, Secretary.