Matt. Brothers & Co. Limited &

The range of their activities and changes in the constitution of the firm have been accompanied by a corresponding growth in its operations, and it may be well to glance for a moment at the panorama of activities they embrace, though it is difficult to convey in words an adequate idea of their range and complexity. A bird's-eye view of the Hartford New Works at Werneth would reveal an interminable range of huge buildings and workshops extending in all directions, and intersected with miles of storage yards and railway lines; the Hartford Forge, the Hartford Sawmills, and the Werneth Spindle Works, in addition to three large collieries at Butterworth Hall, Jubilee, and Moston, owned by the firm and supplying it with fuel, and, at the other end of the town, the Hartford Old Works complete the picture.

Hartford Forge.—At Hartford Forge all the wrought iron used by the firm in the construction of its machines is produced; and with the enormous mass of raw and finished materials to be dealt with, nothing short of a complete system of railways and locomotives inside the works suffices for the transit of the materials from one department to another.

The Sawmills.—Following the forge are the Sawmills, equipped with numerous tools of the firm's special design, and capable of converting over five hundred thousand cubic feet of timber into finished form every year.

The Hartford New Works.—At the Hartford New Works there are eight Foundries, served by as many huge cupolas, turning out over seven hundred and fifty tons of castings weekly.

The Hartford Old Works.—At the east end of Oldham are the Hartford Old Works, including the spot where the firm first commenced to build up this mammoth concern. The machines erected here differ somewhat from those built at the Hartford New Works, being more concerned with the preliminary processes of cotton manufacture. Carding engines are included in the Old Hartford category. Several thousand workpeople find constant employment in these works, though, of course, the works are hardly as extensive as those situated at Werneth. Further afield again are the Collieries already mentioned.

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