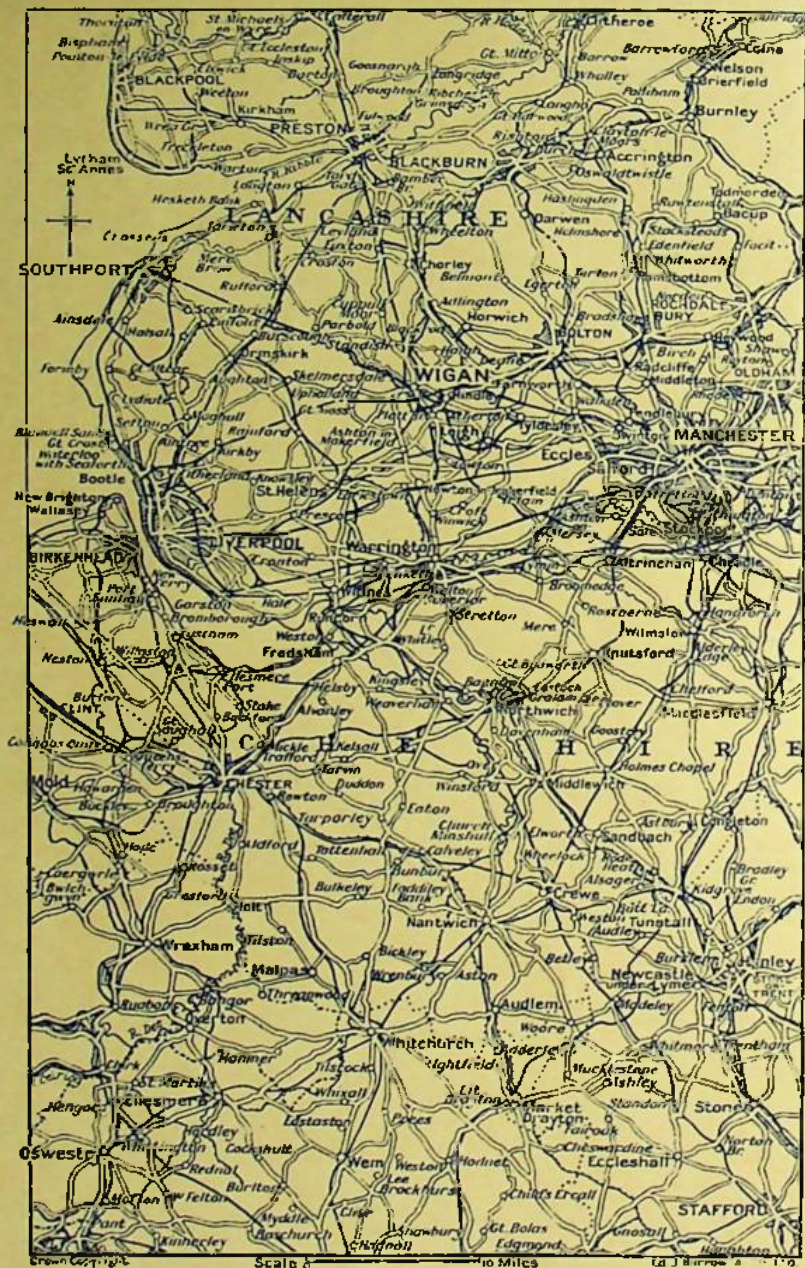


THE·OFFICIAL·GUIDE
TO THE
TOWN AND INDUSTRIES
OF
W I G A N

With Street Plan and Maps

Fourth Edition



ROAD AND RAILWAY MAP OF THE WIGAN DISTRICT

Ordnance Maps for this area are:—One-inch Scale—Popular Edition sheets 24, 25, 29, 30, 35, 36, 43, 44; Half-inch Scale—Sheets 8 and 12; Quarter-inch Scale—Sheets 22 and 42.

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(Central Showrooms)



[Photograph by F. Dewy, Wigan]

THE TOWN HALL

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POSSESSING UNRIVALLED
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GUIDE

(FOURTH EDITION)

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MAYOR'S PARLOUR,
TOWN HALL,
WIGAN.

THE object of this Guide is to introduce Wigan to you. The following pages will give you a short description of one of the oldest towns in England and its industries. Not only will they bring before you the chief places of interest but also they will justify our claim that Wigan is now one of the finest towns in the country for the establishment of new industries.

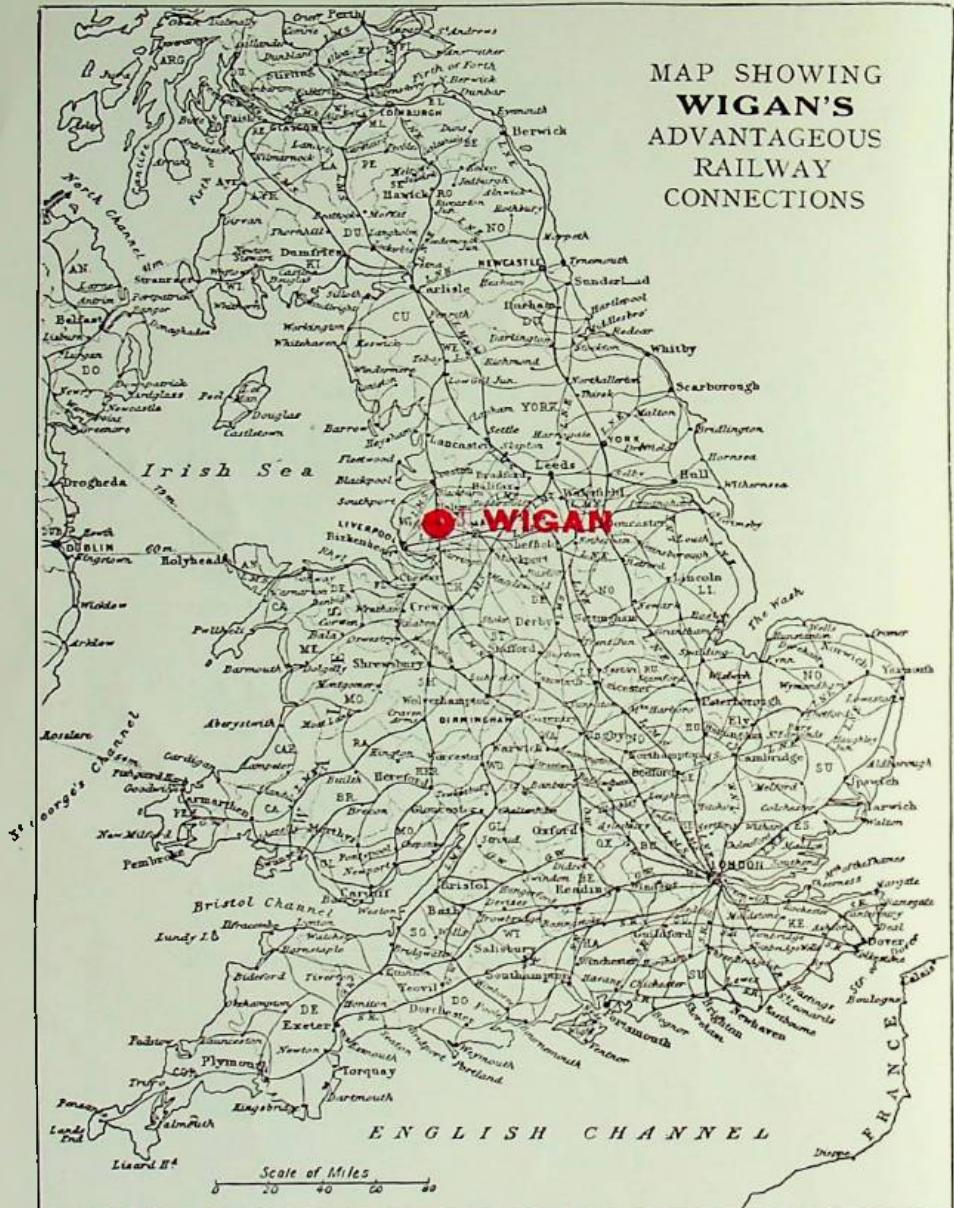
In the first part of this Guide you will find general information about the town, in the second part there is an account of the industries of Wigan and of the opportunities which are available to those who establish works there.

I hope that you will find this booklet interesting, but if any information which you want is not here, please write to the Town Clerk, Wigan, who will be glad to assist you.

DANIEL ROURKE,

Mayor of Wigan.

MAP SHOWING
WIGAN'S
 ADVANTAGEOUS
 RAILWAY
 CONNECTIONS



Bartholomew, Edn

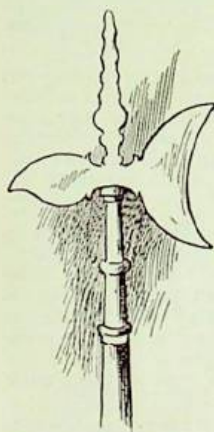
WIGAN is most favourably placed with regard to the chief manufacturing districts of the North of England and Midlands, and has particularly good railway, canal and river communications. These advantages, combined with cheap power and the fine sites available on reasonable terms, render it an ideal place for new works and factories

WIGAN

THE TOWN IN THE PAST

EVIDENCE exists of the Roman town of Wigan, and in all probability there was a settlement of one of the Celtic tribes here before the Romans built one of their chief colonising camps in the second century A.D.—the *Coccium* of which mention is made in the Antonine Itinerary. A fairly good specimen of an altar of this period is to be seen in the tower of the Parish Church, and there are some coins of the later Empire in the Public Library, together with Samian ware (now preserved at Upholland College) discovered during recent excavations. Remains are to be seen of the military road leading to the large garrison town of Ribchester, between which town and Chester, Wigan was the half-way halt.

One school of historians believes Wigan to have been the scene of King Arthur's legendary conflicts, though this somewhat uncertain distinction is claimed by various localities. Wigan was without doubt a borough during Saxon times and is therefore among the oldest in the country, apparently even at that date enjoying marked prosperity.



ONE OF A PAIR OF HALBERDS which are placed one each side of the front door of the Mayor's House for the time being, during the period of his Mayoralty, according to the ancient curious custom

The Norman regime saw the gradual growth of Wigan into one of the principal market towns in the county (a distinction which it still enjoys); but tangible evidence of its growth is not found until the reign of Henry III, who gave the town its first extant charter in 1246, thereby constituting it a free borough of definite civic importance in the State. This charter was ratified by several successive sovereigns. The charter of 1350, containing the first mention of the offices of Mayor and Town Clerk, evidences the growing size and prosperity of the town. At this date Wigan's chief importance lay in its position as a market town on one of the most generally used routes to the North.

At the beginning of the fourteenth century Wigan was the centre of troubles occasioned by the Banastre rebellion (1315) and was embroiled in the Earl of Lancaster's intrigues against Edward II. The Rector of Wigan was among those tried by the King at Wigan in 1323 for supporting the cause of the Earl of Lancaster. The famous "Legend of Mab's Cross" arises out of the events of this period. Sir William Bradshaigh, who married Mabel Norris, the heiress of Haigh, being implicated in the murder of Sir Henry de Bury, became outlawed and, though pardoned in 1315, concealed himself until the death of his enemy the Earl of Lancaster in 1322. In the meantime Dame Mabel, his wife, believing him to be dead, had married again. Hearing of this Sir William returned in the disguise of a palmer, revealed himself to his tenants, and drove out the intruding Welsh knight whom he overtook and slew at Newton-le-Willows. The Lady Mabel was ordered as a penance to walk barefoot once a week for a year from her house at Haigh to a cross just outside Wigan in Standishgate, a distance of about two miles. The cross, ever since known as "Mab's Cross," is still preserved in Standishgate and is now situated well within the borough. There are several extant versions of the legend which erroneously (but more romantically) ascribe Sir William's

RECORDS OF THE PAST

absence to the "Holy Wars," but otherwise the story seems well-founded on fact. The tomb of Sir William and Dame Mabel is to be seen in the Parish Church.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the town maintained its prominence as one of the chief towns of Lancashire. The free institutions of the borough developed, the traders organized themselves into nine or ten craft "companies" or guilds and the trade of the town greatly increased. The town was frequently the centre for government commissions, and its church attained considerable influence during the religious controversies of Elizabeth's reign. Nevertheless no outstanding event is recorded until the seventeenth century, when Wigan became a Royalist stronghold during the Civil Wars.

During the Civil Wars the Earl of Derby had his staff headquarters at Wigan and repelled the attacks of Cromwell until 1643, when he sustained a crushing defeat. Cromwell next visited the town in 1648 in pursuit of the fugitive Scottish Army. The Earl of Derby was finally defeated three years later, at the Battle of Wigan Lane, and was subsequently taken prisoner at Worcester and conveyed to Bolton, where he was executed for high treason. A monument, erected in 1679, still stands on the spot (in Wigan Lane) where the well-known local knight, Sir Thomas Tyldesley (the Earl's second-in-command), was killed.

Wigan was plundered no less than seven times during the Civil Wars, and the Treasury (which was situated in the old Moot Hall) was on one occasion looted to the extent of £20,000 and the whole of the Corporation Regalia was stolen. The present maces date from the Commonwealth, when the stolen articles were replaced by copies.

We next hear of Wigan in the reign of Charles II, who granted the town, as a reward for its loyalty, the privilege of a sword of state to be carried before the Mayor (a privilege which is exercised to this day). The Mayor at that time was Sir Roger Bradshaigh, whose family have always played a part in the affairs of Wigan and whose descendant, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, still occupies Haigh Hall, on the outskirts of the borough.

Wigan is mentioned as having played a part in the Jacobite Risings, and in particular in the "Lancashire Plot" of 1696 to restore James II to the throne. In connection with this plot there emerges the figure of Ralph Standish of Standish Hall, near Wigan—part of which building has been sold and re-erected in America, and the remainder is now used as a Club House by the Standish Golf Club. Ralph Standish was implicated in the plot, but escaped when his fellow conspirators were arrested. The conspirators were eventually released, but it is unlikely that they would have been had the secret papers, which have since been discovered and are now in the Public Library, been available to the Crown.

Wigan was also concerned in the Risings of 1715 and 1745; during this latter rebellion the Young Pretender passed through Wigan both in advance and in retreat and spent the night on each occasion at Walmesley House (more lately known as the Manor House). The Duke of Cumberland, who harried the Prince in retreat, occupied the same quarters on the following night.

During the eighteenth century Wigan appears to have been a Spa, and there is still one well containing water of definite medicinal properties, although most of the chalybeate water was drawn away by the mines which were sunk at this period. Coal was worked in Wigan from very early times, but the great coalfield was opened out in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and the working of cotton on a large scale was also probably begun at this period. Cotton was certainly manufactured in Wigan during the seventeenth century, but not on any large scale.

Under the Local Government Act 1888 Wigan became a County Borough, being at that time in a prosperous mining period which ended only just

WIGAN IN PAST DAYS

before the Great War. From this time the town has grown steadily both in population and in industrial advantages.

The ancient and modern history of the town of Wigan is an explanation and a justification of its motto—"Ancient and Loyal," a description first given to it in the Charter granted by King Charles II in 1662. These words appear on the Coat-of-Arms and are silently confirmed by the 1,700 names engraved on the Wigan War Memorial.

THE EARLY WIGAN CHARTERS

Wigan bases its claim to be the oldest borough in Lancashire upon a Charter of Incorporation which was given by King Henry I in 1100. This is recorded in a visitation report in the College of Heralds, dated 1613, and a specimen of the town seal dating from the twelfth century is still in existence. The first authentic record of Wigan's corporate existence is the Charter of 1246, granted by King Henry III to the celebrated John Mansell, the Rector of the Parish and Lord of the Manor, which constituted the town a free borough. This Charter of 1246 was confirmed by King Edward II in 1314. By a Charter of King Edward III in 1350, Wigan was added to the twelve towns exercising authority under the Statute of Acton Burnell de Mercatoribus (in this Charter the offices of Mayor and Town Clerk are first specifically mentioned). By a Charter of King Charles II in 1662 the "ancient borough" of Wigan was granted, as "a special token of Our favour" for its "loyalty to Us," the privilege of having a sword carried before the Mayor. The original sword presented to the Corporation is still part of the Municipal Regalia and bears the Royal Arms on one side and the Arms of Sir Roger Bradshaigh, the Mayor at the time, on the other side. By a Charter of King James II in 1685, the Mayor of Wigan was constituted a Justice of the Peace, both for the Borough and the County, during his year of office and the following year. In addition to these Charters the early Charter of 1246 was confirmed and extended by successive sovereigns from time to time until the reign of King William IV, when Wigan became a borough under the Act of 1835. The town became a county borough under the Local Government Act of 1888.

It is of interest to observe that Wigan, Lancaster, Liverpool and Preston comprised the four Lancashire boroughs which were included in the first grant of Parliamentary franchise to the towns, as distinct from the counties, and Wigan sent two members to the Parliament of 1295 and continued to do so until the Redistribution of Seats Act 1885.

EARLY COURTS IN WIGAN

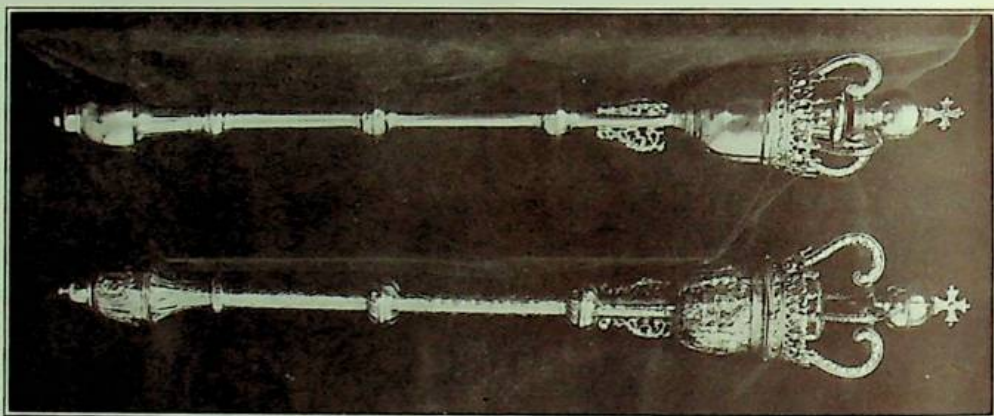
Wigan Court of Quarter Sessions dates from the sixteenth century and perhaps earlier. Its jurisdiction was originally claimed by the Parson (who was the Lord of the Manor), but in all references to it, it is under the jurisdiction of the Corporation, who were then described as "The Mayor and bailiffs." The earliest known record is for 13th January, 1555/6, when the Mayor and bailiffs of Liverpool were indicted "at the Quarter Sessions then fyrst holden at Wygan Mondaye beyng xiith daye of Januarii annis regnorum regis et regine, etc. (P. & M.) ii^o et iii^o." The name of the Recorder is not given. The name of the Recorder is first known in 1600 (Robert Pennington), since when a complete list of Recorders and dates of their appointments is in existence. An incomplete series of records of the Court are preserved in the Corporation Archives from 1733 to date. MS. Calendar is available at the Public Reference Library. The Court is continued under the authority of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882.

Wigan Court of Pleas. This was the local Civil Court which had jurisdiction in personal actions to any amount. The Mayor was the judge of the Court, which fell into abeyance in 1781. When the Court was first held is not known, but it was continued under the authority of various

AN OLD-TIME CUSTOM

Charters, the last being that of King Charles II, which was granted in 1662. A series of Year Books are preserved in the Corporation Archives from 1616 to 1781, the earliest being for the mayoralties of William Foster (1616), Hugh Ford (1617), and William, Earl of Derby (1618). The Court was held thirteen times in each year, the sittings lasting two days. Minor cases were heard before the Bailiffs on the first day, and major cases before the Mayor on the second day.

Court Leet. The Corporation had a Court Leet and view of frankpledge, which was held once a year, at Michaelmas, with monthly adjournments. This Court was held under the authority of the Borough Charters and was granted, according to the Charter of 1351, to the Parson of Wigan, but authority under it was exercised by the Corporation.



THE CORPORATION MACES

Disputes subsequently ensued and were settled by an award of a Royal Commission, dated 23rd February, 1618/19, whereby the Easter Leet was granted to the Parson and the Michaelmas Leet to the Burgesses. The records of the Court are preserved in the Corporation's archives from 1626, which are imperfect in the earliest years, but continuous from 1651. MS. calendar is available in the Public Reference Library.

It may also be of interest to mention that a Court of Pie Poudre was granted by a Charter of King Charles II and that a Seal of Recognizances, under the Statute Mercatoribus, was granted to the Mayor and a Court Baron was granted to the Parson of Wigan by the Charter of King Edward III.

COAT OF ARMS

Notwithstanding its important municipal history Wigan had no regular coat of arms, but used a badge only which had formed the seal device since the seventeenth century. In 1922 the Corporation obtained a proper grant, dignified with supporters in view of its ancient importance.

The borough arms are of considerable interest both heraldically and historically, and are well designed to signify and symbolize both the historical and industrial importance of the town. The blazon consists of a red shield, on which is displayed a triple-turreted Norman fortress in silver, above which

MILEAGES FROM WIGAN

is a regal crown in gold. The crest consists of a representation of a Plantagenet monarch. The supporters consist of two royal lions again bearing reference to the early royal patronage of the town. Each lion holds in its paws a branch of a wiggan tree—a punning reference to the place-name. The motto, "Ancient and Loyal," commemorates the charter granted by Charles II in 1662, as already mentioned in our reference to early charters.

CORPORATION REGALIA

The Wigan Corporation is justifiably proud of its fine insignia, plate, seals, charters, etc. The insignia consists of two maces, a greater and a lesser; state sword (1662); four halberds; Mayor's gold chain, and badge (1873); Mayoress's pendant-collar; Mayoral staff of office; a Mayor's silver-mounted stick, 1702 (used by the Deputy Mayor); two salvers; a salver and jug set; a tankard; brass punch ladle; two loving cups; silver rose bowl; casket; silver ewer (1631); ancient muniment chest (1695); Mayor's robe; Corporate and Mayoral seals, etc.

THE SITUATION OF WIGAN

Wigan is the centre of South Lancashire, and combines the advantages of both an industrial and an agricultural town. To the south and east lies the industrial area, to the north and west the agricultural.

Being on the main western route from London to Scotland both by road and by railway, Wigan is more accessible than many large towns in the vicinity. There are excellent daily train services with London (four hours) and with Manchester and Liverpool (twenty-five minutes). The train fares, in force on the 1st July, 1934, are as follows:

	<i>Return Fares</i>		<i>Day</i>	<i>Week-end</i>
	<i>1st</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Excursion</i>
Birmingham ...	37/-	22/2		15/-
Blackburn ...	7/10	4/8	2/4	3/3
Blackpool ...	13/10	8/4	3/6	5/9
Bolton ...	4/2	2/6	1/3	2/6
Bradford ...	22/-	13/2	6/7 (W. & S.)	13/3
Chester ...	12/6	7/6	3/-	5/-
Crewe ...	15/-	9/-	4/6 (W. & S.)	6/-
Lancaster ...	15/4	9/2	4/-	6/3
Leeds ...	25/4	15/2	7/7 (W. & S. 12 noon)	10/3
Liverpool ...	8/2	5/-	2/6	3/6
London ...	80/10	48/6	-	32/6
Manchester ...	7/6	4/6	2/3	3/-
Oldham ...	10/10	6/6	3/3 (W. & S. after 12)	4/6
Preston ...	6/6	4/-	2/-	2/9
Rochdale ...	9/6	5/8	2/10 (W. & S.)	4/-
St. Helens ...	4/-	2/6	1/3	-
Southport ...	7/6	3/9	2/3	3/-
Stockport ...	9/8	5/10	2/11 (W. & S.)	4/-
Stafford ...	25/4	15/2	7/7 (W. & S.)	10/3
Wakefield ...	24/-	14/6	7/3 (W. & S.)	9/9
Warrington ...	5/-	3/-	1/6	-

PLACES OF INTEREST AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Wigan is a perpetual surprise to the stranger. Instead of the town being the cheerless, smoke-blackened place which he may have expected, he finds that Wigan has an individuality of its own, distinct from all the other towns in South Lancashire, with its well-made streets, its Tudor buildings, and its ancient Parish Church crowning the hill in the centre of the town.



Copyright, T. Livingstone Lacey, J. P., Wigan]

[Photograph by F. Dew, Wigan

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS FROM THE SOUTH

The most interesting link with the past is the **Parish Church of all Saints** which dates from the fourteenth century and is built in early Perpendicular style. The date of its foundation is lost in antiquity. So far as can be ascertained the site of the Parish Church has always been used as a place of worship and it appears that a heathen temple stood there prior to the Roman occupation of Britain. In the North tower may be seen an altar worked into the north window bay, which is of undoubted Roman origin.

The church was restored in 1620, in the middle of the nineteenth century, and again in 1903. The list of Rectors goes back to 1199, while the church register dates from 1580. There are three chantries, known as the Gerrard, Leigh and Bradshaigh (or Lindsay) chapels, which have derived their names from the three leading families, whose names have appeared throughout the history of Wigan. Of these three leading families, perhaps the most important is the Bradshaigh or Lindsay, which is now represented by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, who is esteemed not only for his great work for the country but for the interest which he takes in Wigan.

Reference has already been made to the adventures which befell an early member of this house and his wife. The cross, known as **Mab's Cross**, to which Dame Mabel had to walk as a penance, is still in existence, although

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

it has been moved a few yards from the centre of the road, and may be seen in front of the Girls' High School, in Standishgate.

A short distance higher up, in Wigan Lane, there is a **Monument** erected in 1679, to mark the spot where Sir Thomas Tyldesley fell, mortally wounded, fighting for the cause of Charles II in the battle of Wigan Lane, in 1651.

The War Memorial is the finest modern erection in the town, and stands flood-lighted at night, in All Saints Gardens. As will be seen from the photograph, it takes the form of an octagonal Eleanor Cross, and was designed by Sir Giles G. Scott, R.A., the eminent architect of Liverpool Cathedral. This War Memorial is considered one of the finest in the country and is well worth a visit.

It is unfortunate that **Walmesley House**, more recently known as the Manor House, is now demolished. It recently stood in Bishops-gate near the Parish Church, and was the ancient residence where Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed on his retreat to Scotland. A fine new Government Building is being erected on the site, which will be a credit to the town, but many lovers of old Wigan have regretted the passing of the old building.

The Town Hall (see illustration on page 2) in King Street was built in classic style in 1866, and was extended to accommodate various Corporation Departments in 1928. This building includes a commodious Council Chamber, Mayor's Parlour and Reception Rooms, the Quarter Sessions and Police Courts (which have been entirely reconstructed and redecorated in 1934, upon the most up-to-date lines), Committee Rooms, Central Police Offices, Fire Brigade Station, and office accommodation for the Borough Treasurer's Department, the Education Department, and for the Wigan and District Town Planning Committee. The elaborate Corporation Regalia, which is referred to on page 11, is also kept in the Town Hall.

The Municipal Buildings (see above) are in Library Street and accommodate the offices of the Town Clerk, the Borough Engineer and the Medical Officer of Health. The Central Clinic is also accommodated in this building, the entrance to which is in Hewlett Street. Proposals are at present before the Ministry of Health for the erection of extensions to these buildings at the estimated cost of £40,000, by means of which additional office accommodation will be provided and one of the finest Clinics in the country will become available for the public in the centre of the town.

The County Court and the County Police Buildings (part of which handsome buildings may be seen on the extreme left of the photograph of the Parish Church, see page 12), are situated in Crawford Street.

Mention should also be made of the **Territorial Drill Hall** in Powell Street. This includes magazines, offices, private rooms, canteen, armouries,



Photograph by]

[F. Dew

THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
LIBRARY STREET

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

sergeant-major's quarters, assembly and equipment rooms, etc. There is standing room for about 5,000 people and apart from its official purposes the Hall is admirably adapted for concerts, displays and similar functions. The annual Exhibition organized by the Chamber of Trade is held in this building.

The Wigan and District Mining and Technical College (see photograph on page 17) is situated in Library Street opposite to the Municipal Buildings. This is one of the finest Mining Colleges in the country and is the subject of an article on page 25. It was built in 1903, but the building it replaced was opened in 1857. The College has a distinguished record covering a very wide field. As a building it is of imposing appearance and is one of the most impressive in the town. In 1929 extensions were erected at the cost of £40,000.

The Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, in Wigan Lane, was opened by King Edward VII, when he was Prince of Wales, in 1873. It has since been extended by the addition of various wings, pathological laboratories, nurses' quarters and children's wards, and the Nurses' Home has recently been enlarged. The present accommodation offers 180 beds and the reputation of the Infirmary is one of the highest in the country.

A nursing home for patients with moderate means, which will shortly be erected at the cost of £35,000, has been given to the Infirmary by Mr. George Alfred Christopher, a local gentleman, who has also recently promised to give an organ at the cost of £1,000 to the new Grammar School and playing fields to the Technical College at the cost of some £1,500.

LIBRARIES

In addition to many well-stocked private libraries there are the following Public Libraries :

The Central Library. The Central Library, in Rodney Street, opposite the Town Hall, was opened as long ago as 1878. Although there is a large lending library, which is open, except on Sundays and Bank Holidays, from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. (Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. until 1 p.m.), the chief feature is the Reference Library, which now contains over 80,000 volumes, and includes many rare and valuable works. This collection is especially notable for its works on mining, bibliography and freemasonry.

There is also a News and Magazine Room, which is open at the same time as the Library, and also on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m., on Bank Holidays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, and on Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There are about 240 periodicals displayed and 140 directories are available for use in the News Room Corridor.

The Central Library serves at present as a Public Museum and houses a most interesting collection of local pictures and historical relics, which are well worth inspection. It is here that the old charters, which are referred to elsewhere in this guide, are kept.

Pemberton Carnegie Library (Ormskirk Road, Pemberton). This building was opened in 1907, the gift of Mr. Carnegie. A large number of volumes are available and this library serves the Pemberton area of the borough. It is open on week-days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., but on Wednesdays and Saturdays it is open all day.

The Powell Juvenile Library and Reading Room (Station Road). This Library was presented to the town by the late Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart. (then Member of Parliament for the borough). This is open on week-days from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 2 to 8 p.m.

THE CORPORATION BATHS

The Corporation have provided Public Baths and Wash-houses in Millgate, which were erected in 1882 and enlarged in 1915.

Accommodation is provided for private baths, vapour and slipper baths, in addition to two large swimming baths, which are fitted with filtration and aeration plants.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Plans have been passed for a new filtration plant of the latest type, which will be erected during the course of the next few months.

There is also a large up-to-date laundry.

The Plunge Baths are open daily during the summer from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Saturday 7 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Sundays 7 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.).



A CHARACTERISTIC SCENE IN THE WIGAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

During the winter the smaller Plunge Bath is open for bathing on weekdays (except on Saturdays) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

During the winter (October 1st to March 31st) the larger Plunge Bath is boarded over and the fittings screened and decorated so that an attractive hall is available for public dances, whist drives and similar entertainments.

Applications with regard to the letting of the Hall, or any matter relating to the Baths, should be made to the Superintendent, Corporation Baths, Millgate.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Visitors to Wigan are invariably astonished to find that, with the exception of Kew Gardens, the finest show of rhododendrons in this country is to be found in Wigan.

The Haigh Plantations, which are partly within the borough, are about a square mile in area and belong to the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, who allows the public free access. The Plantations are famed, not only for the magnificent rhododendrons and bluebells, but for their well-wooded and stately appearance on both banks of the River Douglas. Some idea of the natural scenery in and around Wigan may be gained from the photograph which appears above, which is a view looking towards Wigan from a point about a mile from the Centre. The Earl of Crawford's seat is situated at Haigh, two miles from the borough boundary.

A stranger visiting Wigan is impressed by the broad, well-made roads and particularly by the boulevard in Wigan Lane at the northern entrance to the town from Preston. This adjoins the entrance to the Haigh Plantations.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

When the Corporation widened the road they were careful to preserve the ancestral trees. The pavement has been set back and the intervening space has been turfed. With the object of enabling the Corporation to protect this fine entrance to the town, Parliament, in 1933, gave the Corporation wider powers in this respect than had ever been granted to any municipality before.

Plans are at present before the Council for a somewhat similar improvement to the southern entrance to the town from Warrington, and it is hoped that this work will be completed before long.

The town of Wigan is fortunately blessed with attractive parks and in addition by many gardens which have been laid out in the centre of what were formerly congested areas. Particular mention should be made of the following parks:

Mesnes Park. This is a large park, comprising about 28 acres, in the centre of the town, as will be seen from the map facing page 30. The greater part of this park was acquired as long ago as 1878, but improvements and additions have been made up to comparatively recent times.

The most notable features are the wide lawns and the many-coloured rhododendron bushes. During most seasons of the year the flower beds in this park, as in all other parks under the control of the Corporation, are well stocked with flowers in bloom. There is a most charmingly situated lake in the grounds and lovers of old Wigan may be interested to observe, among the rocks, some of the original stones which formerly formed part of the old Town Hall, which stood in the Market Place and was demolished in 1882.

Among the most popular entertainments provided in the park are the Band Concerts, which are given during the summer. Each year a Band Competition is organized by the Mayor, in aid of the Wigan Infirmary, which produces gratifying results.

There are three bowling greens, a putting green, nine hard tennis courts and ten grass tennis courts, and a Café in the park, which are very popular.

Alexandra Park. This park, which comprises about 14 acres, serves the Pemberton area of the borough, and was presented to the public in 1901, by Colonel Blundell. It was extended in 1929 by the addition of a further 2 acres of land.

This park has been re-laid recently, with assistance from the Unemployment Grants Committee, and now offers three hard tennis courts and seven grass tennis courts, in addition to a children's playground and two bowling greens.

In addition to the two parks mentioned above, and to the many smaller gardens (such as the Old Parish Church Yard, which has been converted into a beautiful garden), the Corporation has paid particular attention to the question of playing fields, among which may be mentioned the **Great Acre Recreation Ground**, which offers 6 acres of playing field accommodation in a thickly populated district at Whelley, and provides for three bowling greens, four hard tennis courts, four grass tennis courts, a children's playground, and a large bowls and tennis pavilion; the Clarrington Grove Recreation Ground—4 acres; the Giant's Hall Recreation Ground—11 acres; the Worsley Mesnes Recreation Ground—7 acres; and the Lamb Street Recreation Ground—2 acres.

The Secretary of the Juvenile Organizations Committee, at the Town Hall, or the Borough Engineer, at the Municipal Offices, Library Street, will be glad to give assistance to secretaries and others of teams requiring playing field accommodation.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Elementary Education. Wigan is one of the foremost Authorities in the north of England in the provision of educational facilities. Its activities range from nursery classes for children from three to five years of age up to university degree courses at the Technical College.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

There are seven Council and twenty-two non-provided schools in the town. Of the non-provided schools fifteen are Church of England and six Roman Catholic and one is Methodist. There is an average of 13,500 children on roll in the public elementary schools of the town and the average attendance for some years has exceeded 90 per cent of the number on roll.

The town was one of the first in the field to reorganize its schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Hadow Report, and has now



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[Photograph by F. Dew, Wigan

THE MINING AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS (see page 14)

eleven well-equipped senior departments. The latest one to be built by the Education Committee accommodates 960 scholars and is the best school of its kind in the district, being equipped with seven practical rooms for each department and 4 acres of playing fields adjoining the school.

All of the eleven senior departments are equipped with science laboratories and practical rooms, and all have gardens and playing fields. The school halls are equipped as gymnasiums and physical training is organized throughout the schools by two organizers recently appointed by the Committee. Biology has recently been introduced into the curriculum of some of the senior schools with a considerable measure of success.

The whole of the reorganization in the town has been completed except for the Roman Catholic Schools, and it is hoped that the reorganization of these schools will be effected in the near future. There are at present three nursery classes in the town.

The needs of retarded children receive special consideration and the Committee are endeavouring to place in each senior and junior school at least one teacher who has received special training in the education of dull and

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

backward children. At present there are four special classes for these children which are fulfilling a very useful purpose, and at the senior schools facilities have been provided for instruction in gardening and the results have been very satisfactory, the boys showing marked improvement in mental alertness. Experiments are also being carried out in the instruction of boys in domestic subjects and of girls in woodwork and household repairs.

Secondary Education. By a liberal scholarship scheme the Committee provide the opportunity for children to proceed to secondary schools, and by award of senior scholarships pupils are enabled to remain at school until they are eligible to compete for open scholarships to Oxford, Cambridge and other Universities and for State Scholarships. University, Art, Music, Physical Training and Domestic Science Scholarships are also awarded, and an innovation has been made in the Committee's scholarship scheme by the transfer of girls at post-matriculation from the Girls' High School to the Mining and Technical College for a one-year Senior Commercial Course, and for Pharmacy Courses.

Scholarships are also provided to enable children to attend the Junior Technical and Junior Commercial Courses conducted in the Wigan Mining and Technical College, and by further scholarships it is possible for students to complete degree courses at the college for London University examinations.

There are two municipal secondary schools in the town. The boys' school—the Wigan Grammar School—was founded in 1596 and has an extremely interesting history as well as an exceptionally fine record of old boys' successes. At the beginning of 1935 there were thirty-six Grammar School boys in *statu pupillari* at British Universities.

The present premises, though handsome, are inadequate to meet the increased number of boys which attend the school. Economy measures held up a scheme for the removal of the present army huts which have been used as a temporary measure and the extension of the present permanent buildings at a cost of about £40,000, but the Board of Education have now agreed to allow the Committee to build and work will soon be commenced. The school has recognized advanced courses in classics, in science and mathematics and in modern studies, and many students secure Board of Education Scholarships to Universities and Open Scholarships to Oxford, Cambridge and other universities. A playing field has recently been laid out on a site adjoining the school. An average of 450 scholars attend the school.

The Girls' High School, which is of a more recent origin, was erected in 1916, and took the place of the old Mab's Cross School, which was originally established by the Church Parish School Company in 1887. An average of 375 scholars attend the school, including 70 at "Woodfield," the preparatory department of the Girls' High School.

There is also one non-provided Roman Catholic Secondary School for girls—Notre Dame High School—to which scholarships are awarded by the Education Committee. The Wigan Education Committee is represented on the Governing Body of the school. There are some 380 scholars in attendance.

Evening Institutes. The Education Committee encourage the further education of children at Evening Institutes, of which there are eight, and considerable developments have been made in this direction during the past few years. Awards in the nature of remission of fees and book allowances are made as an incentive to regular attendance. Facilities are afforded for adult education by the provision of classes in handicrafts such as woodwork, needlework, raffia and basket work, upholstery, tailoring, dressmaking, domestic science, gardening, motor engineering and wireless. Instruction is also provided in a variety of other subjects such as speech training and drama, music, first aid, home nursing, physical training, folk dancing and eurhythmics, in addition to the ordinary academic and practical subjects of the junior courses organized for school leavers. The Committee offer facilities for those who have passed their preliminary examinations at the evening institutes to attend for further instruction at the Technical College. Several classes have been organized for the benefit of the unemployed.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Social activities are connected with each evening institute and there is an annual students' dance and social which is attended by over 600 students, and open evenings are held at each institute when displays of the work of the students are given.

Welfare. The welfare work of the Education Committee covers a wide range of activities and is regarded as one of the most important branches of their work. The most interesting feature of this work is the Summer School which has been erected at Southport. Here children, selected from those most in need of a change from their environment, attend for a fortnight and are provided with a specially selected diet rich in vitamins and are subject to compulsory periods of rest. Six parties of sixty boys and six of sixty girls each attend for a period of two weeks. The average gain in weight of all children is over two pounds in a fortnight. The buildings, which are of a semi-permanent type, have been erected on a site leased from the Southport Corporation and are situated close to the sea at Birkdale. There are two dormitories which accommodate 30 children each, dining hall, kitchen, etc., entrance hall and accommodation for four teachers and domestic staff. The kitchen is equipped with range, hot plate and boilers for vegetables, and hot water, and the usual hot water supply for domestic services and baths has been installed. All instruction is given in the open air so long as the weather permits, and fullest possible use is made of the opportunities available, formal instruction as given in town surroundings is kept to a minimum, and formation of habits, general behaviour and table manners receive careful attention.

The School Medical Service is a comprehensive one and, by co-operation with the Maternity and Child Welfare and other welfare services, is able to safeguard the physical requirements of the children from infancy. The scheme includes dental treatment, orthopaedic and sunlight treatment for crippling deformities, operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids, as well as the treatment of minor ailments. The care and after-care of exceptional children forms an important part of the Authority's welfare work in addition to the after-care of children returning from Approved Schools and the supervision of children employed whilst still of school age. The Authority also co-operates with the West Lancashire Association of Mental Welfare by notifying cases suitable for attendance at the Occupation Centre organized by the Association and by the following-up of absentees from the Centre.

Provision is made each year for over 1,400 children to receive expert instruction in swimming, and the utilitarian purpose of swimming is further encouraged by the payment of the fees for 50 children each year to receive instruction in life-saving and to take the examinations of the Royal Life-Saving Association.

Playing field facilities are provided at the new senior schools and the Committee rent various sites in the town for the use of elementary and secondary school children, and allow the local Juvenile Organizations Committee to make use of them on occasions.

The Authority exercises Choice of Employment powers under the Education Act and are also responsible for the administration of the Unemployed Insurance Acts so far as they relate to juveniles. Very successful junior instruction centres have been established to provide useful occupation for unemployed juveniles and to preserve them from the deleterious effects of prolonged periods of enforced idleness. The activities at these centres include handicraft, physical training, first aid and boot repairing for the boys, and handicrafts, dressmaking, physical training, nursing and dramatic work for the girls, and other subjects of a more general nature.

THE TRANSPORT UNDERTAKING

The history of Wigan's Transport Undertaking commences in 1880 when a private company, named the Wigan Tramways Co. Ltd., operated a system of horse-drawn cars. These had only been in use for about eighteen

THE TRANSPORT UNDERTAKING

months when they were superseded by steam tramways which were operated by steam engines, designed and constructed by a local engineer named William Wilkinson. These steam engines were patented and were adopted for many years by other large municipalities.

In 1902 the Corporation acquired the whole of the Company's Undertaking and continued to operate the steam tramway service until about 1905, when they brought into operation a system of electric trams which continued until 1931.

The services were gradually extended and eventually supplied the needs not only of the borough but also of many thickly populated districts on the east and south of the town.

In spite of the former popularity of the tramway service, the Wigan Corporation was one of the first municipalities in the country to foresee the importance of the petrol-driven omnibus, and as early as 1921 they obtained power to run omnibuses within the borough and on thirteen different routes outside the borough. These powers were not fully exercised for some years because capital which had been borrowed for the construction of the tramways was still outstanding.

By the year 1928 it was realized that in spite of the large amount of the debt still outstanding, it was essential, in the public interest, that the electric tramways should be replaced by motor omnibuses, and the difficulties with which they were then faced were increased by the fact that the leases to operate services in some adjoining districts were expiring. The Corporation, therefore, took the courageous step of abandoning all their tramways, in spite of the fact that the loan debts were still outstanding, and would have to be paid out of the profits of the motor omnibus service. This decision also involved the expenditure of a large capital sum for the purchase of motor omnibuses.

After considerable negotiation, not only with the other operators in the district, but with the local authorities concerned, the Corporation succeeded in obtaining the necessary licences and sanctions, and were able, at midnight on the 28th March, 1931, to abandon their electric tramways and to replace them with petrol omnibuses. Since that time the Corporation have steadily adopted the policy of removing the tramlines and the stone setts which disfigure so many northern towns and in the last few months (since some of the photographs which appear in this guide were taken) they have laid down tarmacadam roads which will bear comparison with those of any city in the country. A motorist, passing through Wigan on the main road from London to Scotland, is impressed by the change in road surfaces which he is able to enjoy whilst passing through the borough of Wigan.

The Corporation are at present experimenting with oil-driven motor omnibuses and operate twenty-seven of these vehicles in addition to their petrol-driven omnibuses. The services operate over 96 miles of routes, of which 79 miles are outside the borough boundaries, and extend (by means of co-ordinated services) as far as Liverpool, Salford and Bolton.

The average annual mileage which is now run is 3,000,000 miles.

One point which the Transport Committee of the Corporation has always kept in mind has been to place as many orders with local firms as possible. The chassis of most of the omnibuses have been purchased from Leyland Motors Ltd., of Leyland, and the bodies have been constructed by the Northern Counties Motor and Engineering Co. Ltd., of Wigan; Messrs. Massey Bros., of Wigan, and Messrs. Santus Motor Body Works, of Wigan. All these firms are famed throughout the country for the excellence of their work.

Particulars of the services which are at present operated are as follows:

OMBIBUS SERVICES IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

	S.	R.
Market Place to Beech Hill, via Walkden Avenue	2d.	—
Library Street to Hindley via Ince Bar	3½d.	5d.
Library Street to New Springs	2½d.	4d.
Market Street to Martland Mill Bridge	2½d.	4d.
Market Place to Popper Lane via Boars Head	3½d.	—
Market Place to Abbey Lakes via Pemberton	4½d.	7d.
Station Road to Marus Bridge via Worsley Mesnes	3d.	5d.



THE MARKET SQUARE

Station Road to Platt Bridge via Wigan Cemetery	3d.	5d.
Station Road to Abram via Platt Bridge	4d.	7d.
Station Road to Bickershaw via Platt Bridge	4d.	7d.
Market Place to Ashton via Newtown	5½d.	8d.
Station Road to Bolton via Aspull, Wingates and Lostock (joint service with Bolton)	1/-	1/6
Station Road to Horwich via Green Barn	7d.	1/1
Station Road to Haigh, Blackrod and Green Barn	6½d.	1/-
Station Road to Blackrod via Scott Lane	6½d.	1/-
Station Road to Windy Arbour via Pony Dick	4d.	7d.
Station Road to Marsh Green	3d.	5d.
Orrell Post to Standish via Gathurst	5d.	—
Market Square to Manchester via Atherton (Joint Service)...	1/9	2/6
Market Square to Liverpool via Ashton, Haydock and St. Helen's (Joint Service)	2/3	2/6

MARKETS AND FAIRS

Official recognition of the Markets and Fairs of Wigan dates from the year 1258, when a charter was granted to the Rector. In 1870 the rights, and the present site, were purchased by the Corporation, and in 1877 the present Market Hall was erected.

The Market is situated in the heart of the busiest shopping centre of the town, and the area of the site occupied by the Market Hall, Fish Market and Market Square is 4½ acres. The Markets comprise :

MARKETS AND FAIRS

(1) **Commodious Retail Market Hall.** The interior of this Hall is attractively planned, and has been considerably improved and modernized in recent years. A wood-block flooring has been laid and central heating installed. Excellent overhead lighting is provided, and the general tone is very similar to a large, clean, and up-to-date store.

This Market is open six days per week, and observes the usual shop hours, the early closing day being Wednesday.

There is a ready demand for stalls, and on the rare occasions when a stall does become vacant no difficulty is found in getting a tenant.

(2) **Wholesale and Retail Fish Market.** This Market is held in a modern building adjacent to the Market Hall, and there is a plentiful supply of water and every convenience. The Market is well patronized by both buyers and sellers.

(3) **Open Wholesale and Retail Fruit, Vegetable and Growers' Markets.** One of the best Markets of this description in Lancashire is to be found at Wigan. It is held on the 2½ acres which constitutes the open Market Square adjoining the Market Hall in the centre of the town. The Market supplies the bulk of the neighbourhood's requirements in home-produced vegetables and fruit, and offers the producer a useful outlet for his supplies. Owing to the size of the Square there is no overcrowding, and there is ample room for all who desire to attend.

This Market is held on each week-day (the principal days, however, being Tuesday and Friday), and is well patronized by buyers.

A portion of the Market Square has been allotted for the use of public service vehicles, and all the services operating between Wigan and outlying districts use this ground as a terminus, with the result that large numbers of people from the surrounding villages and towns are set down on the Market Square, an arrangement which has proved most beneficial to the Markets. It is proposed in the near future to erect a modern bus shelter and conveniences on this site.

Fairs. Large pleasure and merchandise fairs are held during May and October each year, which are well patronized not only by the people of Wigan but by the inhabitants of all the adjoining districts.

(Note: All enquiries should be addressed to "The Markets Superintendent, Market Hall, Wigan.")

GENERAL INFORMATION

Enquiries. General information and enquiries with regard to industrial sites, etc., The Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan (Wigan 3203).

Educational Matters. The Director of Education, The Town Hall, Wigan (Wigan 3411).

Electricity Supply.—The Borough Electrical Engineer, The Electricity Works, Bradford Place, Wigan (Wigan 3241), or The Electricity Show-rooms, Standishgate, Wigan (Wigan 3853).

Gas Supply.—The Gas Engineer, Gas Works, Darlington Street, Wigan (Wigan 3340).

Water Supply.—The Borough and Water Engineer, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan (Wigan 2881).

Juvenile Employment.—The Juvenile Employment Bureau, The Town Hall, Wigan (Wigan 3411).

Public Health Services.—The Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan (Wigan 2219).

Transport Services.—The Transport Manager, Market Place, Wigan (Wigan 2851).

Accommodation. The Grand Hotel (unlicensed, A.A., R.A.C.) (see page 62); The Victoria Hotel (licensed) (see page iii of cover); various Private and Commercial Hotels. *Refreshment.*—Mackinson's Café (see page 31); Barnes Café (see page 69); Rendezvous Café (see page 65); Minorca Hotel Grill Room (see page 74).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area. 5,083 acres.

Motor Engineers and Garage Proprietors. *H. H. Timberlake Ltd., Library Street, Wigan (Wigan 3451); Mab's Cross Motors Ltd., Mesnes Street, Wigan (Wigan 3271) (see page 66); *Messrs. Middleton & Wood (1919) Ltd., King Street West, Wigan (Wigan 2876); J. Swift, Esq., Brick Kiln Lane, Standishgate, Wigan (Wigan 2043); J. Dean, Esq., Darlington Street East, Wigan (Wigan 3769); Allen's Service House, Mesnes Road, Wigan (Wigan 3595); Harry Williams, (Himsel), Central Garage (Wigan 2330), see page 64. *Cars let out on hire.

Motor Index Marks. EK and JP

Parking Places. Market Square; College Avenue; Hewlett Street; Crawford Street; The Pavilion (Library Street).

Population. 85,357

Rateable Value. £361,024. **Rates.** 14/9 in the £.

Places of Worship: Parish Church of All Saints, with a Mission in Frog Lane; St. Catharine's, Birkett Bank; St. Michael and All Angels', Duke Street; St. Andrew's, Woodhouse Lane, with a Mission at Beech Hill; St. George's, Church Street; St. Thomas's, Caroline Street; St. James's, Poolstock; St. Matthew's, Pemberton; St. John's, Pemberton; St. Mark's, Newtown; St. Paul's School Chapel, Goose Green; St. Stephen's, Whelley.

All the other recognized denominations are also represented, including Roman Catholic, Congregational, Independent Methodists, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterian Church of England, Reformed Episcopal (Christ Church), Catholic Apostolic, Free Gospel, Christian Brethren, New Church, Welsh Presbyterian, Christian Science, Salvation Army.

Places of Amusement. Theatre—The Hippodrome, King Street. Cinemas—The Royal Court, King Street; The County Playhouse, King Street; The Prince's, Wallgate; The New Pavilion, Library Street; The Empire, Market Place; The Palace, King Street.

There are numerous other cinemas in various parts of the town.

Banks. *District Bank Limited*, 1 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 2432); *Manchester and County Bank*—Market Place, Wigan (Wigan 3528); *Martins Bank Limited*—Market Place, Wigan (Wigan 3492); *Midland Bank Limited*—1 Wallgate, Wigan (Wigan 3684); *Union Bank of Manchester Limited*—Union Bank Chambers, Wallgate, Wigan (Wigan 2974); *Westminster Bank Limited*—Standishgate, Wigan (Wigan 3244); *Williams Deacon's Bank Ltd.*—Wallgate, Wigan (Wigan 3211); *Wigan Savings Bank*—33 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3348).

Early Closing. Wednesday. **Market Day.** Friday.

Estate Agents. T. Ainscough, 15 Wigan Road, Hindley, near Wigan (Wigan 5229); W. C. Benson, 3 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3038); William Berry & Son, 2 Victoria Buildings, King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3397); C. A. Healy, F.A.I., Arcade Chambers, Wigan (Wigan 2993); J. N. Henderson, F.A.I., King Street West, Wigan (Wigan 2896); Hilton & Leyland, Powell Street, Wigan (Wigan 2318); James Lowe & Sons, Market Square, Wigan (Wigan 3246), (see page 4); Marsh Brothers, Millgate, Wigan (Wigan 2740); Pierpoint & Worthington, 31 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3652); W. A. Topping, 20 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3168); J. Trickett & Sons, 18 King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3664); James White, 2 Park Road, Lamberhead Green (Pemberton 25); Wilcock & Bridge, 35a King Street, Wigan (Wigan 3793); Robert Walls, F.B.A.A., 20 Wiend, Market Place, Wigan (Wigan 2996).

ATHLETIC CLUBS IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

Football.

Wigan Athletic Association Football Club Ltd (Springfield Park). Secretary: C. W. Spencer, Esq., Wigan Athletic A.F.C., Springfield Park, Wigan. Telephone: Wigan 234911.

Wigan Football Club Ltd. (Central Park). Secretary: George Taylor, Esq., The Pavilion, Central Park, Wigan. Telephone: Wigan 3079.

SPORT AND PASTIMES

- Wigan Old Boys' Rugby Union Football Club* (Prospect Park, Standish.)
Secretary: H. D. Lowe, Esq., 13 Danesway, Wigan. Telephone:
Standish 71.
- Orrell Rugby Union Football Club* (Orrell). Secretary: J. Prior, Esq.,
74 Ormskirk Road, Newtown, Wigan.
- Cricket.**
Wigan Cricket Club (Bull Hey, Wigan). Secretary: P. Glover, Esq.,
114 Swinley Road, Wigan. Telephone: Wigan 2967.
- Bowling.**
Wigan Bowling Green (Bellingham). Secretary: J. Shuttleworth, Esq.,
Wigan Bowling Green, Bellingham, Wigan. Telephone: Wigan 3797.
Wigan Subscription (Park Road) Bowling Green Ltd. Secretary: C. H.
Rhead, Esq., Wigan Subscription Bowling Green, Park Crescent West,
Wigan.
- Curling.**
Wigan and Haigh Curling Club (Manchester Ice Palace). Secretary:
Thomas T. Brown, Esq.
- Hockey.**
Wigan Hockey Club (Poolstock Cricket Ground). Secretary: F. G.
Henderson, Esq., 9 King Street West, Wigan.
- Golf.**
Wigan Golf Club (Arley). Secretary: J. H. Wrigley, Esq., Douglas
House, Worthington, near Wigan. Telephone: Standish 28.
Standish Park Golf Club (Standish Hall). Secretary: R. Norman
Marsden, Esq., The Bungalow, Standish Hall, near Wigan. Telephone:
Standish 97.
Hindley Hall Golf Club (Hindley). Secretary: W. Bentham, Esq.,
"Norwood," Hall Lane, Hindley, near Wigan. Telephone 513111.
Appley Bridge Golf Club (Appley Bridge). Secretary: John Stopforth,
Esq., "Creg-na-baa," Parbold, near Wigan.
Dean Wood Golf Club (Upholland). J. F. Baron, Esq., 426 Ormskirk
Road, Pemberton, Wigan. Telephone: Upholland 80.
Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club (Ashton). Secretary: S. Foster, Esq.,
Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club, Ashton, near Wigan.
Gathurst Golf Club (Gathurst). Secretary: F. Payne, Esq., Gathurst
Golf Club, Gathurst, near Wigan.
- Rowing**
Wigan Rowing Club (Haigh Basin). Secretary: L. Farnworth, Esq.,
38 Standishgate, Wigan.
- Swimming.**
Wigan Swimming and Water Polo Club (Wigan Corporation Baths,
Millgate). Secretary: W. Chivers, Esq., 267 Scholes, Wigan.
- Tennis**
Bellingham Tennis Club (Bellingham). Secretary: W. Alexander, Esq.,
2 Acton Terrace, Wigan.
- Badminton.**
Wigan Badminton Club (The Drill Hall, Powell Street). Secretary:
Fred Matthews, Esq., 5 Osborne Road, Ainsdale, Southport.

CLUBS AND INSTITUTIONS IN WIGAN

- Bible Society.** Secretary: Rev. W. H. Allan, 1 Eccleston Street, Wigan.
- British Legion and United Service Fund Benevolent Committee.**
Secretary: W. J. Winter, Esq., 8 Althams Yard, Standishgate, Wigan
Jaxton Chambers, Hallgate, Wigan.
- Comrades Club (Wigan) Limited** (30, Dicconson Street). Secretary:
Sam. H. Hartley, Esq., 30 Dicconson Street, Wigan
- Conservative Club** (Market Street). Secretary: R. G. M. Jones, Esq.,
The Conservative Club, Market Street, Wigan.
- League of Nations Union.** Secretary: Councillor A. H. Walker, 163 Dorn-
ing Street, Wigan.

CLUBS AND INSTITUTIONS IN WIGAN

- Rotary Club** (Grand Hotel, Thursdays, 1 p.m.). Secretary : A. Clarke, Esq., Swinley Road, Wigan.
- Round Table** (Wigan Branch). Secretary : T. H. Latham, Esq., Martins Bank Chambers, Market Place, Wigan (Wigan 2479).
- Tot H** (Wigan Group). Secretary : J. C. Seddon, Esq., 40 Kenyon Road, Wigan.
- Wigan and District Boy Scout Association.** Secretary : C. J. Twist, Esq., Kenyon Road, Wigan.
- Wigan Division Girl Guides.** Secretary : Miss Brown, " Greenhill," Wigan.
- Wigan and District Dramatic Society** (Leaders Buildings, King Street). Secretary : F. Platt, Esq., Victoria Buildings, King Street, Wigan (Wigan 2586).
- Wigan and District Sunday Schools Union.** Secretary : R. P. Watson, Esq., Ashland Avenue, Wigan.
- Wigan Liberal Association.** Secretary : B. Watts, Esq., 3 Park Crescent.
- Wigan Women's Labour Party.** Secretary : Miss A. Livesey, 42 Moore Street, Whelley, Wigan.
- Young Men's Christian Association** (King Street West). Secretaries : G. Ormrod, Esq., and F. Makinson, Esq., The Y.M.C.A., King Street West, Wigan.
- Wigan Historical Association.** Secretary : P. W. Skirrow, Esq., 58 Spencer Road, Wigan.
- Wigan Education Society.** Secretary : David Cowser, Esq., Education Offices, Wigan.
- Wigan Horticultural Society.** Secretary : Mr. Parr, 25 Walkden Avenue, Wigan.
- Wigan Trades and Labour Club** (Wigan Trades Council and Labour Hall, Powell Street, Wigan). Secretary : Councillor R. Lewis, Powell Street, Wigan.
- Wigan and District Amateur Operatic Society.** Secretaries : Major J. W. Holmes, 10 Bridgeman Terrace, or E. Hartley, Esq., Dentist, Mesnes Street, Wigan.

WIGAN AS A COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE

As before stated, Wigan offers many advantages to firms seeking sites for new industries. Land is plentiful, and in convenient situations at reasonable prices. The town is situated on the south-west Lancashire coalfield, hence fuel is plentiful and cheap. Wigan and the adjoining townships have long been celebrated for their coal formations, which extend for miles in every direction, and the advantages accruing from a plentiful supply of fuel, practically at their doors, have greatly assisted the fortunes of local manufacturers.

Wigan, far from being a decadent town, is constantly on the up-grade, and the increasing population and consequent abundant supply of labour is one of the most important factors to be considered by firms contemplating the establishment of new industries. With a population of something like a quarter of a million, within a radius of five miles, skilled artisans are available for the pursuit of numerous trades. Many recent inventions, especially those facilitating the treatment of iron and steel, are largely due to the energy and enterprise displayed by the officials of leading companies in the locality, and in this connexion valuable aid is afforded by the instruction furnished within the magnificent building, the **Wigan and District Mining and Technical College**, erected mainly as the result of the munificence of local employers. The Governors of the College are at all times prepared, in formulating their syllabus, to include the teaching of the principles of any industry which has been or may be established in the locality. (See page 17.)

The chief industries of the town are coal, cotton (spinning and weaving ; Wigan twills and calicoes being world-renowned), iron and steel ; but there are numerous other industries, including engineering works, oil

WIGAN AS A COMMERCIAL CENTRE

and grease works, bolt, screw and nail works, shovel works, tarpaulin works, explosives works, slipper works, clothing factories, jam factories, edge tool manufacture, and hosiery factories. There are also extensive brick and tile works, and stone quarries, whilst two large explosives works are situated in Wigan.

The Corporation own and control the gas, water and electricity undertakings, and are at all times willing to meet the demands and requirements of manufacturers on favourable terms; whilst a splendid omnibus service, also owned and managed by the Corporation, extends into the whole of the surrounding district and makes it possible for the supply of labour to be quickly drawn from a much larger area than that defined by the actual boundaries of the borough itself. The supply of water is cheap and abundant.

The Wigan Coal Corporation Limited, which is the second largest producer of coal in the county, combines some of the most important and best-known companies in Lancashire. The Wigan Coal Corporation is indeed of national interest and significance, for the reason that its creation was one of the first and most important results of the new and national system known as "rationalization." It is a merger of the coal interests of the former Wigan Coal & Iron Co. Ltd.; Pearson & Knowles Coal & Iron Co. Ltd.; Moss Hall Coal Co.; and Wigan Junction Colliery Co.

The Coal Corporation has a range of qualities of coal eminently suitable for the needs of the county, viz., best house, steam, gas, and coking coals. Its Lancashire pits alone have an annual output capacity of 3,000,000 tons, and the Nottinghamshire pit one-third of this. The Lancashire pits are furnished with washeries capable of washing 800,000 tons of slack per annum; they have transport facilities by rail, canal and road.

The Company also has an organization for the distribution of house coal from Whitchurch through Cheshire and Lancashire and up to Windermere, in addition to similar organizations in Ireland and the Isle of Man.

The Lancashire Steel Corporation Limited is a merger of the corresponding steel and iron interests. It was formed in 1930 to amalgamate the iron and steel businesses of the Pearson & Knowles Coal and Iron Co. Ltd., Partington Steel & Iron Co. Ltd., and the Wigan Coal & Iron Co. Ltd., while interests are held in the British Magnesite Calcining Co. Ltd. The Directors are John E. James (Chairman), the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, Lord Balmiel, Sir W. P. Rylands, J. Hawson, J. Sinclair Kerr, J. T. de Seyfried and Andrew Whyte; the capital is £5,750,000, issued in £1 shares.

The manufactures embrace practically every iron and steel product, including steel bars to British Standard Specification for structural work, ship-building, boiler work, railway carriage and waggon work; special sections of all kinds in both iron and steel, Siemens Martin steel bars by basic process to Admiralty and British Standard Specifications; special chain and cable iron to Lloyd's and Admiralty requirements; steel arches for tunnelling mines, and girders, joists and sections for the building trade. In addition, the Company supplies semi-manufactured material in the form of steel and iron castings, as well as those of brass, bronze and copper and phosphor-bronze. The Works at the Registered Office, Warrington, are equipped with twenty-two puddling furnaces, five bar mills, three hoop and strip mills one wire road mill and a cold rolled hoop plant. The chief Works, however, are at Irlam, where a new, electrically-operated mill has been added to the existing buildings. Here are five blast furnaces; twenty Cowper stoves; four 50-ton O.H. steel furnaces, provided with the latest water-cooling equipment; four 90-ton O.H. steel furnaces; fifty-one by-product coke ovens with residual by-product recovery plant; one 39-inch cogging mill handling up to 5-ton ingots; one 32/28-inch heavy section mill; one 20-inch to 18-inch mill; and iron and steel foundries. A remarkable feature of these Works is the huge sorbitizing plant, constructed entirely by the Company's employees in seven weeks, for the treating of railway lines, which gain considerably in wear-and-tear resisting properties after undergoing the sorbitic treatment; this is believed to be the largest and most complete plant of its kind in the country. The Company also owns a limestone

WIGAN AS A COMMERCIAL CENTRE

quarry at Bodfari, Denbigh. It is interesting to note the capacities of some of this plant—the coking plant handles 400,000 tons of slack per annum and produces 260,000 tons of coke, and eliminates the necessity for purchasing from outside sources, while the coal is carried to this plant by the very latest belt conveyor, at an enormous saving in the cost of transport; the blast furnaces handle up to 800 tons per day per furnace of basic iron, and the steel furnaces up to 400,000 tons of steel ingots per annum; while at the new dock at Irlam up to 4,000 tons per day can be unloaded. This wharf is on the banks of the Ship Canal, contiguous to the Works, and is 600 feet long and 200 feet wide; it runs into the Works with a network of railway lines, and branch lines connect up all departments. A huge basin near-by stores 100,000 tons of ore, and a steel bridge facilitates its unloading on the wharf.

The recent additions have been carried out with due regard to all the latest improvements and the economy to be effected with mechanical plant, and now these Works are among the most superior of their kind in the country, not only as regards facilities for economic manufacture, but for the efficient transport of the finished materials by rail and water.

The reputation of **Wigan's engineering firms** may be said to be world-wide, and several of the Companies have undertaken important installations of machinery, not only in England but various other countries. Messrs. Walker Brothers, of the Pagefield Ironworks, who are well known in this connexion, have also laid down plant for the **construction of petrol motor vehicles**, which are already on the market and meeting with considerable success. It is of general interest to record that this firm installed the huge fans for the recently constructed Mersey Tunnel and also made the fans for the Severn Tunnel. In the mining world Messrs. Wood & Son, of Wigan, have made quite a name for themselves by a speciality of **mining machinery**, and have enjoyed a good trade with South Africa. Messrs. Melling, of the Ince Forge and Worsley Mesnes Foundry, have long been noted for large forgings of unusual character, and it is worthy of note that the axle of the monster wheel formerly at Blackpool, the playground of Lancashire's teeming population, was forged by this firm.

Another firm whose forgings are well known throughout the country is **Wm. Park & Co.**, Clarrington Forge, and they have recently added a department for the manufacture of Solid Steel Columns, of which large quantities are now being supplied for the Constructional Steel Trade.

Apart from the coal-mining industry, Wigan depends in a large measure upon the **weaving and spinning trades** for an existence, a considerable section of the community earning its livelihood in the two trades.

One of the trades of the borough which has made rapid strides in later days is that of the **manufacture of clothing**, and at the present time an exceptionally large number of persons are engaged in the production of various kinds of wearing apparel. Messrs. Coop & Co., who have extensive works in the very heart of the town, employ upwards of 1,000 hands. The firm enjoys a big reputation both on the Continent and in the Colonies, especially in South Africa. Messrs. Brown & Haigh and Messrs. Coop & Rawson, who have also their mills in the borough, do an extensive home trade in clothing, whilst a more recent development in shirts and overall manufacture is carried on by several firms (including one firm recently established which employs over 500 hands). The clothing trade has indeed been developed very rapidly, and local capitalists have reason to anticipate a bright future in this direction.

The local **manufacture of hosiery** has likewise advanced, the main output being from the Vauxhall Hosiery Mill and the Coffee House Mill. About 1908 Mr. Robert Alstead started in the borough a new industry, that of weaving woollen clothes, ladies' and gent's suitings, and the venture proved eminently successful.

One of the oldest industries of the borough, dating back at least 150 years, is that of the **manufacture of Edge Tools**, such as Spades, Shovels, Forks, Picks, Hammers, etc. English Tools Ltd. (an amalgamation of Wm.

WIGAN AS A COMMERCIAL CENTRE

Park & Co.'s Edge Tool Department and Leedham & Heaton Ltd.) have at Clarington Forge one of the most up-to-date works which can be found in the country. Their manufactures are in demand in almost every district in the British Isles, while large quantities are exported to South Africa, South America, Australia, Canada, and many other countries. Wigan was noted over a hundred years ago for the quality of its Spades, and it has enhanced its reputation in this respect. The premises of this particular firm cover an area of five acres and there are over 250 persons employed in connexion with the works.

As far as **cotton goods** are concerned Wigan may be regarded as famous, and it is probably impossible to pick up a price list of cotton materials without finding in it the names of Wigan twills and calicoes in a prominent place.

Despite its already firm hold on the workaday world, Wigan is ever on the look-out for fresh industries, and in 1910 the Corporation appointed a New Industries' Committee to consider the question of encouraging the erection of additional works, either in the town or its vicinity. This Committee is prepared to assist prospective employers in the selection of sites or in affording them any of the privileges it is in the power of the municipality to confer. It is felt that there are good openings for the establishment of any industry and the Corporation are prepared to lease plots of suitable land at low rents.

The railway facilities of the town, as before stated, are splendid, and are at least equal to, and in many cases better than, those in other cities and towns. The London, Midland & Scottish Railway main line between London and the North, and the London & North Eastern Joint Railway between Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire, provide an excellent service for quick transit of passengers and merchandise. The town has also **water carriage facilities**, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal running through the district, and affording direct communication with Yorkshire and with the River Mersey at Liverpool.

Wigan possesses one of the finest **Wholesale and Retail Markets** in the North of England, and whilst a wholesale market is open six days of the week, the principal market day is Friday, when large quantities of produce come into the town from the neighbouring farms and even from adjacent counties and are disposed of to meet the needs of the ever-growing population of the borough and the surrounding townships. The town has come to be recognized as a great shopping centre, and the advent of motor-buses has been a great help in this direction, enabling people to visit the town from the outside country districts. Wigan has the reputation of being one of the best shopping centres in the North of England.

THE CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

The representative trade organization of the town is the Wigan Chamber of Trade and Commerce, formed in 1914 in connexion with one of the "Shopping Weeks." It has gradually grown in strength and activity, uniting the various trading interests of the town for common good, and is now one of the leading local organizations. In addition to direct members there are nine affiliated associations of different kinds of trading, representative of a total membership exceeding nine hundred traders, and each governed by its own separate management, but all united with the central body, and represented in the general executive for the whole. The Chamber is also connected with other associations, the chief of which are the National Chamber of Trade, London, the Manchester & District Federation of Chambers of Trade, and the **Lancashire Industrial Development Council**. The latter body is a recently instituted association formed under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, with the object of introducing new industries to Lancashire and reviving the old. Although until quite recently the work of the Chamber was solely connected with the retail trade, an industrial section is now in operation catering for the interests of manufacturers and wholesalers, etc.

THE INDUSTRIES OF WIGAN AND DISTRICT

The Chamber is now in the forefront in local affairs, and is recognized both by the Local Authorities and outside organizations, as the only Wigan Association to be truly representative of local trading matters. The offices are situated at Auckland Chambers, Station Road, Wigan (Telephone 1056), and the Secretary is Mr. W. N. Murray, A.I.S.A., A.F.T.Com.

THE INDUSTRIES OF WIGAN AND DISTRICT

Aerated Waters	Decorators	Oil and Grease
Air Pipes	Disinfectants	Oil Refining
Annealing Covers	Docks	
Art Metal Work	Dog Foods	Packing Cases
Axle Plates	Drain Pipes	Paints
	Dynamos and Electric Plants	Pick Handles
Bacon Curing		Pipes
Bar Hoop and Sheet Iron		Pickle Making
Barge Building	Edged Tools	Preserved Meats
Barrows	Engineering (all types)	Printing and Stationery
Bedsteads	Explosives	Publishing
Basket Making		Pulley Blocks
Bottling	Fancy Goods	Pumps
Boiler Making	Fellmongering	Provender
Bolts, Rivets and Nuts	Fencing	
Boots and Shoes	Firelighters	Quarries
Bakery	Foundries	
Blast Furnaces	Forging	Ready-made Clothing
Bleaching and Dyeing		Refrigeration
Blow Pipes	Galvanizing	Rope Making
Brass Journeys	Gas and Steam Tubes	
Brass and Aluminium Founders	Girders	Sanitary Pipes
	Glass	Sausages
Brewing		Saw Mills
Brick Making	Horse Shoes	Shafts and Axletrees
Brick Making Machinery	Horse Shoe Nails	Slipper Works
Brush Making	Hosiery	Soaps
Builders' Merchants	Hydraulic Engineering	Spades, Shovels, Forks
		Steel Manufacturing
Cardboard Boxes	Ice Cream	Structural Ironwork
Cement	Iron Works	
Chemicals		Tanners
Chimneys (Iron and Steel)	Jam Manufacturing	Tar Distilling
Clothing Factories	Ladders	Tarpauling Sheets
Cloth Weaving	Leather Belting	Timber Works
Coach Building	Leather Goods	Tinplate Works
Coal Hoppers and Shoots	Laundries	Tinsmiths
Colliery Requisites		Toffee Manufacturing
Collieries	Machinery	Towing
Colours and Paints	Malleable Iron Work	Tools
Conveyors	Mangle Rollers	Transport
Cooked Foods	Mineral Waters	Tubes
Coopers	Monumental Masons	Vertical Boilers
Corn and Flour Mills	Motor Engineers	Vulcanite Works
Coppersmiths		Waggon Manufacturing
Cotton Goods	Nails and Rivets	Warehousing
Corrugated Iron	Newspapers	Welding

POINTS WORTH NOTING

Water, Gas and Electricity are supplied by the Corporation. Their policy has always been to assist industry by supplying these commodities as cheaply and in as large quantities as possible. The Corporation are prepared to erect houses and schools and to construct roads and other works in approved cases.

Industrial sites are available in excellent situations. The Town Clerk keeps a register of all vacant sites and buildings and will supply particulars, free of charge, on application. A wide choice is offered of sites in the centre and on the outskirts of the town with railway sidings and other special advantages.

Good transport facilities exist. Wigan is on the main western road and railway to Scotland. The town is served by the L.M.S. Railway, the L.N.E. Railway, and by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. It is close to the ports of Liverpool, Manchester and Preston, and, being the "hub" of industrial south Lancashire, it is the most accessible town in the area and the best distributing centre.

Abundant skilled and unskilled labour is available. New works will be welcomed by the Municipality, the Trade Unions and all sections of the community. Owing to the diversity of trades already carried on, intending manufacturers may rest assured that, whatever their business, they will find plenty of experienced and satisfactory workpeople, and plenty of young people capable of being trained for the various trades.

New works have recently been established and extended for all types of manufacture—Printing and Dyeing Works, Vulcanite Works, Clothing Works, Rainproof Clothing Works, Basket Manufacturing Works, Slipper Works, Box Manufacturing Works, Mineral Works and many others. The Secretary of the Czecho-Slovakian concern which has recently established a printing and dyeing works in Wigan says: "We came to Wigan because Wigan offered the best facilities."

PLEASE OPEN HERE

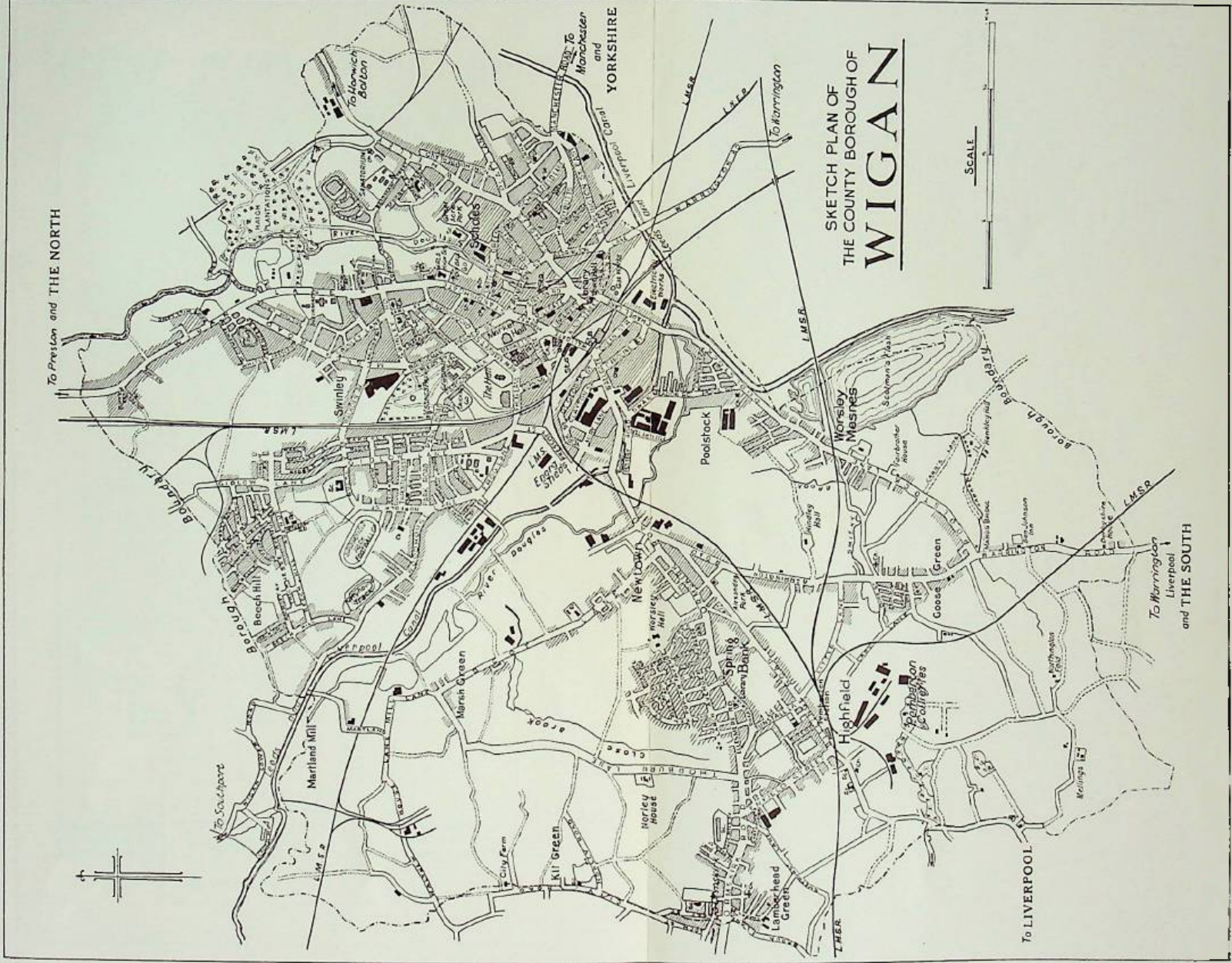
IN WIGAN
INDUSTRIAL LIFE

**PEMBERTON
COLLIERY**

PLAYS A
LEADING PART

5

CO-OPERATE LOCALLY



SKETCH PLAN OF
THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF
WIGAN

SCALE

Liverpool, Southport and THE LANCASHIRE COAST

BE UP-TO-DATE WITH
GAS

To warm a house comfortably,
Light it pleasantly, ensure
Cooking that is dependable,
have Hot Water in abundance

—USE GAS

The Living Essence of Coal

ELIMINATES—
WASTE • WORRY • WEARINESS

Minimum of Labour
Maximum of Efficiency

Let Gas serve You!

FOR INFORMATION & ADVICE
call at

THE CORPORATION
GAS DEPARTMENT

Showrooms

34 KING STREET, WIGAN



Supreme for Quality

10 WALLGATE, WIGAN

Telephone 3473

PUBLIC SERVICES

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

For many years the Corporation have operated an extensive Electricity Works, and have recently erected particularly fine Showrooms in Standishgate, where facilities are offered for the supply and hire purchase of all forms of modern electrical apparatus required in the home.

All general enquiries should be made to the Showrooms or to the Electricity Works in Bradford Place, and all enquiries for industrial supplies should be made to the Electrical Engineer at his office in Bradford Place.

The Department supply electricity to large power consumers at special charges, under conditions.

The charges for domestic supply are as follows, from which a deduction of 2½ per cent is made on prompt payment :

Lighting. *Flat Rate*, 3½d. per unit.

For all-hours' use up to 1,000 hours per annum (made up by a minimum of 150 hours' use in each of the two quarters ending 30th June and 30th September, and a minimum of 350 hours in each of the quarters ending 31st March and 31st December) of installed light, 3½d. per unit.

For all-hours' use over 1,000 hours per annum (which 1,000 hours must be made up by the aforesaid minimum number of hours in each of the four quarters) of installed light, 1½d. per unit.

Heating, Cooking and Domestic Power. *Flat Rate*, 1d. per unit.
Domestic or Combined Tariff.

Applicable to supplies of electricity to Private Dwelling Houses, Bungalows, and Flats only.

- (a) An annual fixed charge based on the net rateable value of the house (scale as under), and
(b) A charge of ½d. per unit for all electricity consumed.

Scale

Not exceeding £12 £1 16s. per annum
Exceeding £12 15 per cent of net rateable value.

The fixed charge is payable by equal quarterly instalments.

Note—The adoption of the Rateable Value System is contingent on the installation of electrical appliances, other than lamps, in accordance with the undermentioned scale of rateable values :

For houses not exceeding £25 per annum 2 kw. to be installed.
For houses exceeding £25, but not exceeding £40 3 kw. to be installed.
For houses exceeding £40 4 kw. to be installed.

Power

For the first 250 units per quarter 2d. per unit.
For the second 250 units per quarter 1½d. per unit.
For the third 250 units per quarter 1½d. per unit.
For the fourth 250 units per quarter 1½d. per unit.
For all units over 1,000 per quarter 1d. per unit.
Minimum Charge 10/- per Quarter.

Large Electrical Signs. *Flat Rate*, 1½d. per unit.

Shop Window Lighting after Business Hours.

For current consumed, 1½d. per unit.

Meters.

Meters are fixed free, but a rent of 1/- per quarter per meter is charged to all consumers of electricity for ordinary lighting and heating purposes, except in respect of each meter through which electricity to the value of £1 per annum is consumed.

GAS SUPPLY

Exceptional facilities are offered by the Gas Department in the form of reduced rates, advantageous sale, hire purchase and hire terms for all gas cooking and lighting appliances for the economical use of gas for all purposes. Apart from the economical aspect, however, the advantages offered by gas for cooking, hot water, lighting and heating purposes are manifold—there are no ashes to carry, no flues to clean, and the warmth

GAS AND WATER SUPPLIES

of the room can instantly be adapted to varying temperatures, a great boon where there is sickness.

The charges for lighting purposes are $\frac{3}{5}$ per 1,000 cubic feet and for cooking, heating and motor power $\frac{3}{1}$ per 1,000 cubic feet. Gross prices per therm are 8 542d. and 7 71d. respectively. A discount of 10 per cent is allowed on payment within twenty-eight days.

The Corporation have followed very closely the demand for gas in industrial concerns and have recently reduced their charges where 200,000 cubic feet are consumed in the quarter and 1,000,000 cubic feet in each year are consumed, by $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Enquiries should be made at the Gas Showrooms in King Street, or at the Gas Works in Sovereign Road. (See facing page 3.)

WATER SUPPLY

The Corporation own reservoirs at Adlington, Arley, Worthington and Orrell, which have an aggregate capacity of over 300 million gallons. The filtering apparatus is of the latest pattern and ensures an adequate supply of pure water for drinking and other purposes. The Corporation have also extensive rights to take water from the Manchester Corporation's Water Undertaking at Thirlmere and elsewhere in the Lake District. The Corporation obtain a supply from certain wells which have a total capacity of 60,000 gallons per hour.

The charges for trading, manufacturing and other purposes are in accordance with the scale of which particulars may be obtained upon application to the Borough Treasurer or the Borough and Water Engineer.

The charges for domestic supply are as follows:

Domestic Supply

- (a) On Rateable Value up to and including £12 5s., 17/4 per annum.
- (b) from £12 10s. to £19 15s., 7 per cent on rateable value.
- (c) from £20 to £39 15s., $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum on rateable value.
- (d) from £40 upwards, 6 per cent per annum on rateable value.

Provided that the minimum charge on Scale (c) shall not be less than the maximum amount payable on Scale (b), and that the minimum charge on Scale (d) shall not be less than the maximum amount payable on Scale (c).

Tubes for washing windows, motor cars, gardens, flags, etc., an additional charge of from 7/6 to 30/- per annum. (Note: The usual charge made is 15s.)

Water Closets and Baths

Rateable Value of House	1st Bath or Inside W.C.	2nd Bath or W.C.	Every Additional Bath or W.C.	Outside W.C.'s for Lock-up Shops
Under £10 ...	6/- p.a.	—	—	6/- p.a.
£10 and under £20 ...	9/- p.a.	7/6 p.a.	6/- p.a.	9/- p.a.
£20 and under £40 ...	12/- p.a.	9/- p.a.	6/- p.a.	12/- p.a.
From £40 upwards ...	15/- p.a.	10/6 p.a.	7/6 p.a.	15/- p.a.
W.C.'s in Sunday Schools and Parish Rooms ...	9/- p.a.	7/6 p.a.	6/- p.a.	—

Supply by Meter

In all cases other than those specified above the charge for the supply of water will be by meter, e.g., Bowling Greens, Milk Coolers, Builders' Yards, Low-Pressure Boilers, Foundries, etc., etc., at 1/6 per 1,000 gallons, with a minimum quarterly charge of 15/-; except that, in the case of each bowling green and milk cooler, the minimum quarterly charge shall be 10/-.

Unfiltered water charged at 1/- per 1,000 gallons.

Meter Rents

	Per Qr.		Per Qr.
Three-eighths inch meter ...	1/4	One-and-a-half inch meter ...	3/6
Half-inch meter ...	1/4	Two inch ...	5/-
Three-quarter inch ...	1/8	Three inch ...	7/-
One inch ...	2/-	Four inch ...	9/-

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

as represented by some Firms advertising in this Guide

THE COLLIERY INDUSTRY

Wigan is situated in a district of vast industrial and commercial enterprise, and, as befits a town whose prosperity is in a great measure due to the valuable coal-fields in this vicinity, many colliery concerns are centred here.

From a small, shallow pit put down by Jonathan Blundell at the close of the eighteenth century, Pemberton Colliery has developed into one of the most up-to-date and self-contained colliery undertakings in the country, employing 2,000 local men, women and boys. The concern now goes under the name of the **Pemberton Colliery Co. (1929) Ltd.** The Works are fitted with forty of the latest by-product recovery ovens, for the recovery of tar and ammonia; in conjunction with the gas engines these supply all the power necessary to the colliery for pumping, lighting, etc. During the War, plant was installed for the recovery of benzol and toluol for Government use in connexion with the manufacture of explosives.

Pemberton has an unbroken record of nearly one hundred and fifty years of local employment. All its activities, which now include brick-making, are still in a flourishing condition, and it represents the largest private industrial concern in the Wigan borough.

The **Garswood Hall Collieries Co. Ltd.**, which was founded in 1875, was amalgamated in 1929 with the Garswood Coal and Iron Co. Under normal conditions the undertaking employs 3,500 hands, and when working at full capacity is capable of raising about 4,000 tons of coal per day. The Company produces first-class house coal in addition to commercial fuels, and has excellent facilities for the transport of its output, having not only rail connexion with the L.M. & S. and North Eastern Railway Companies, but also an outlet for fuel by the Leeds and Liverpool canal via the Company's "Commander" Tip at Bamfurlong.

The interests of the workpeople are well catered for. The Institute and grounds situated on Wigan Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, and which were opened in 1892, afford excellent facilities for recreation. The Company was one of the first to recognize the importance of affording employees an opportunity of suitable recreation in their leisure time.

The sole selling agents for the Garswood Hall Collieries Co. Ltd., in the Wigan and Chorley districts, are **Pigot & Smith**, Coal Contractors and Shippers. Established in 1921, the firm have now attained a position of considerable importance in the county, and factor most of the Lancashire collieries' fuels. Pigot & Smith own offices in Wigan and Liverpool, the former in Station Chambers, Wallgate, and the Liverpool one at 28 Exchange Street East.

Arthur G. Rose, of 18 Kenyon Road, also supplies all grades of household, industrial and gas fuels and coke in bags, loads or wagons.

ENGINEERING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES

Wigan is justly proud of its engineering firms, whose reputations are, in some cases, world-wide.

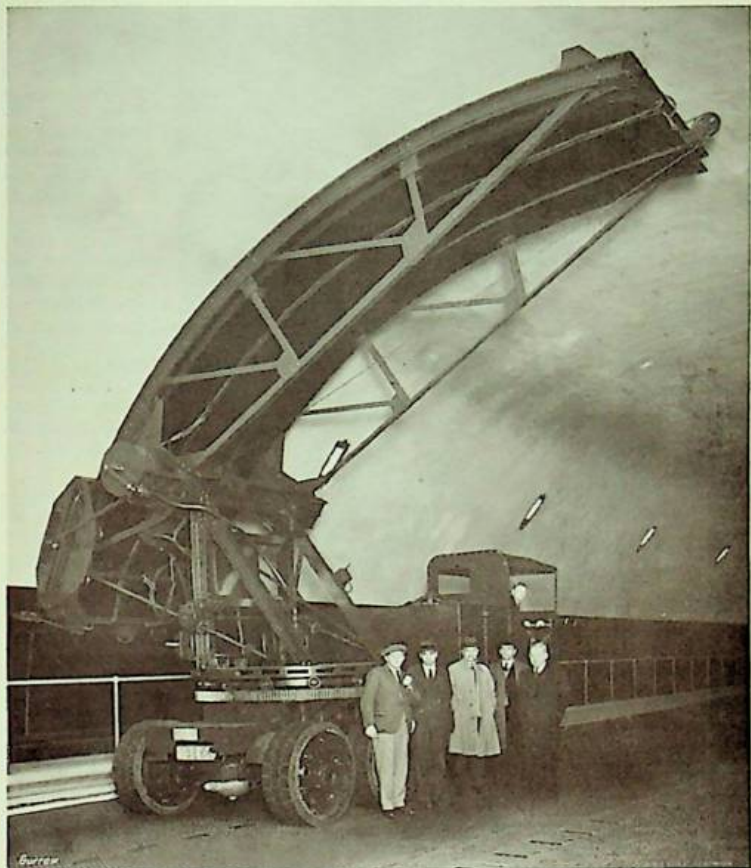
One of the most important concerns is that of **Walker Brothers (Wigan) Ltd.**, of the Pagefield Iron Works, whose productions cover a very wide field.

This firm manufacture reciprocating steam engines of the largest type, and during the last fifty years these have been supplied to nearly all the leading colliery companies in the country, and to mines in such scattered parts as South America, China, India, Australia, South Africa, Canada, Russia and Sweden. Four of these engines have lately been sent to an important South African gold mine, and each, when ready for despatch,

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

required a special train of twenty-four trucks : each of these engines is capable of developing approximately 2,000 horse-power.

"Walker" Ventilating Fans for mining work are equally well-known. The biggest duty fan in the world was supplied to South Africa in 1924, and two cases in this country are of special interest—namely, the Severn Tunnel



Photograph by
Stewart Bale, Liverpool

Published by courtesy of the
Mersey Tunnel Joint Committee

**THE UNIQUE MACHINE WHICH HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED BY
MESSRS. WALKER BROS. OF WIGAN, FOR CLEANING THE MERSEY TUNNEL
(PHOTOGRAPH IN OPERATING POSITION)**

(G.W.R.) and the new Mersey Road Tunnel, equipped with sixteen "Indestructible" fans. In this connexion the plant required constitutes the biggest order ever placed for ventilating machinery in this country.

The "Walker" Mobile Crane was specially designed for the L.M.S. Railway and has proved so satisfactory that repeat orders have been received from the Company. These cranes are able to lift a 6-ton load and carry it at a speed of six miles per hour.

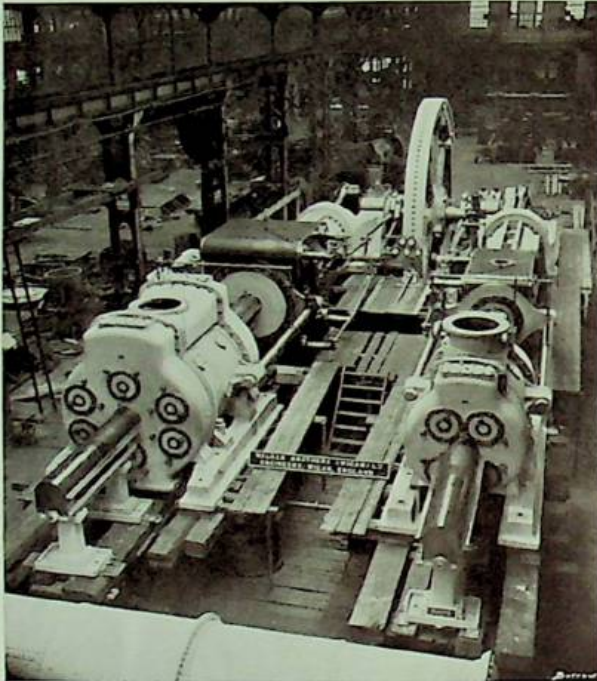
NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

"The Pagefield System" for the efficient and economical collection and transport of house refuse has given great satisfaction to many of the London boroughs and in provincial towns, including Liverpool, Coventry, Hastings, Northampton, Southport and West Ham. The system is serving the requirements of approximately 3,000,000 people in this country alone.

Motor lorries have been constructed at the Pagefield Works since 1910, and hundreds of vehicles were supplied to the War Office during 1914-18.

Recently the firm have taken a lead in the utilization of the Diesel type engine for road haulage work, while the "Pagefield" oil-engined vehicles have rapidly established their reputation.

The reputation of the Preston Ironworks (Thomas Blackburn & Sons Ltd.) is not only confined to Preston, or even to Lancashire. Established in 1857, the business has many years of sound experience behind it, and the staff



By kind permission of]

[Messrs. Walker Bros. (Wigan) Ltd.

ONE OF FOUR 10,000 CUBIC FEET AIR COMPRESSORS MADE BY WALKER BROTHERS FOR A SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD MINE, EACH ENGINE WEIGHING OVER 200 TONS

to-day is composed of first-class men who are thoroughly familiar with every aspect of their trade.

The firm manufacture structural steelwork, wrought iron railings and gates, plain and ornamental cast ironwork, glazed verandahs, direction posts, manhole covers and gully grates: they are the makers of the "Hermon" Patent Sectional Heating Boiler. An extensive stock of R.S. joists, angles, channels, tees, flats, and reinforcement bars are always available for immediate delivery.

Contracts recently carried out include the new Market Hall at Crewe; new Market Hall, Nelson; large works extensions at Prescot, Widnes and Duncan; new Winter Gardens at Llandudno; cinemas at Caernarvon, Manchester and Maryport, and railings for the County Councils of London, Lancashire, West Riding of Yorks, Essex, etc., as well as for very many Municipal and Public Authorities.

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

The firm of **Bridge & Sons (Wigan) Ltd.** were first founded some thirty-eight years ago as blacksmiths and railing makers. The business has gradually grown, and is now housed in the large Seven Stars Forge.

Gradually the firm adapted themselves and their works to the making of structural steelwork, which class of work they are now qualified to carry out efficiently and competitively, with the aid of commodious works and a competent staff.

They also specialize in any design of "ornamental ironwork," such as entrance gates, balustrading and railings, for such buildings as churches and schools, and for parks. A great many examples of their workmanship, in Wigan and other districts, bear ample proof of the excellence of craft.

The engineering business of **Johnson Bros.**, which has steadily built up an excellent reputation throughout the United Kingdom for new and second-hand machinery, was established in the year 1880 by Thomas Johnson, and is now carried on by the Exors. of the late John F. Johnson and Joseph Johnson. Any alterations which are required in addition to general overhauling are carried out in the large workshop on the premises, and all machinery is tested wherever possible after overhauling, to make sure of its being ready for immediate work when despatched.

Wide experience in Colliery Engineering both in this country and abroad places Messrs. Johnson in a particularly happy position and the firm is often called upon by the Lancashire colliery owners. Two jobs recently executed were the dismantling at Park Lane collieries and the supplying to Cardowan Colliery, Stepps, Glasgow, of a Walker Multivane Type Fan, capacity 400,000 cubic feet of air per minute, at 4" water gauge, driven by a 400-H.P. vertical compound engine. This was conveyed by motor transport, the rotor and shaft being 17½ tons and the total weight 58 tons.

The **Central Wagon Company Limited**, whose chief works are situated at Springs Branch, has been established now for upwards of 20 years and is to-day one of the leading Companies in the railway wagon trade, controlling over 30,000 wagons. Its activities embrace the building, hiring and repairing of railway wagons, also the manufacture of colliery pit tubs and all kinds of colliery and wagon ironwork. Its organization of works and outstation depots covers the whole of the coalfields in England and Wales, in addition to all important railway junctions and marshalling sidings.

The Company owns two-thirds of the share capital of the Doncaster Wagon Co. Ltd. (with works at Doncaster and Clay Cross); all the shares in the Preston Wagon Co. Ltd.; and all the shares, both ordinary and preference, in Moys Wagon Co. Ltd., Peterborough, and the Ince Wagon and Ironworks Co. Ltd., Lower Ince; as well as being associated with the Welsh Wagon Works Ltd., who have works and depots at Cardiff and throughout South Wales.

The head offices are situated at Ince. The managing director is Mr. F. T. Hanson, who has been with the Company since its inception.

J. H. Naylor Ltd. were established in 1861 as brass founders and finishers. All classes of non-ferrous alloys are dealt with; the finishing shops at the Millgate Works are laid out for the production of gun-metal steam fittings for the ship-building and heavy industries, also fire fittings for fire brigades, export, etc.

The Wiend Works are concerned with the production of miners' safety lamps. In addition to these manufactures the firm produce several well-known devices for the detection of combustible and dangerous gases.

The Automatic Detector shown on another page of this guide is the most recent addition. It will automatically give warning of the presence of combustible gases in the atmosphere either by lighting a red light or ringing a bell.

THE SPIRALARM

*An Automatic Detector
of Combustible Gases in
any atmosphere*

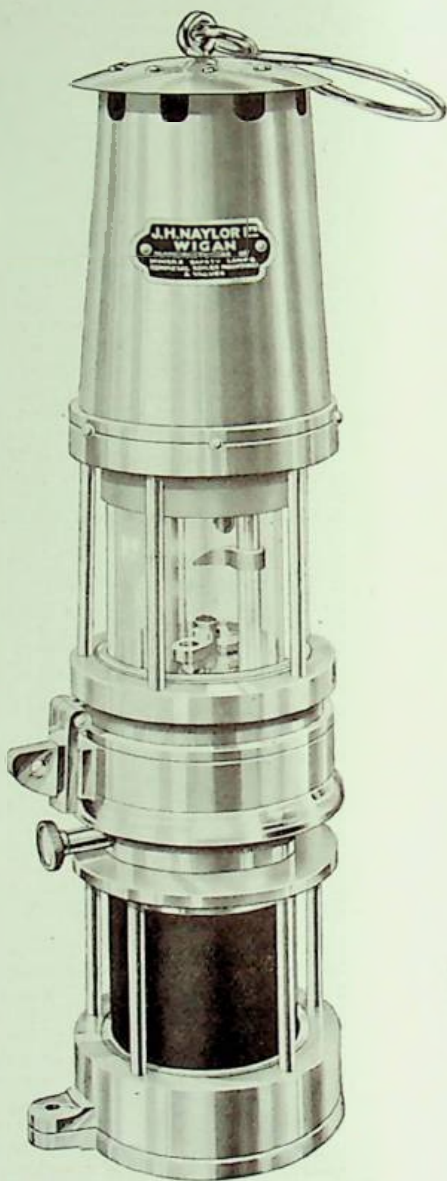
ROBUST, SIMPLE AND
ECONOMICAL

For the protection of life wherever inflammable gases are present the Spiralarm fills a long-felt need. It is composed of a Miner's Flame Safety Lamp of approved design. The steel gauzes and gas-tight joints ensure that no ignition of explosive gases can be caused by the presence of the testing flame. The Spiralarm is designed to meet the requirements of Local Authorities, Petrol Companies, Collieries, works where inflammable gases are present, and for any undertakings where life is endangered by the presence of inflammable gases.

Full particulars obtainable from
J. H. NAYLOR LTD.
CENTRAL BRASS WORKS
WIGAN

Telephone - - - Wigan 3676
Telegrams - "Naylor Wicnd Wigan"

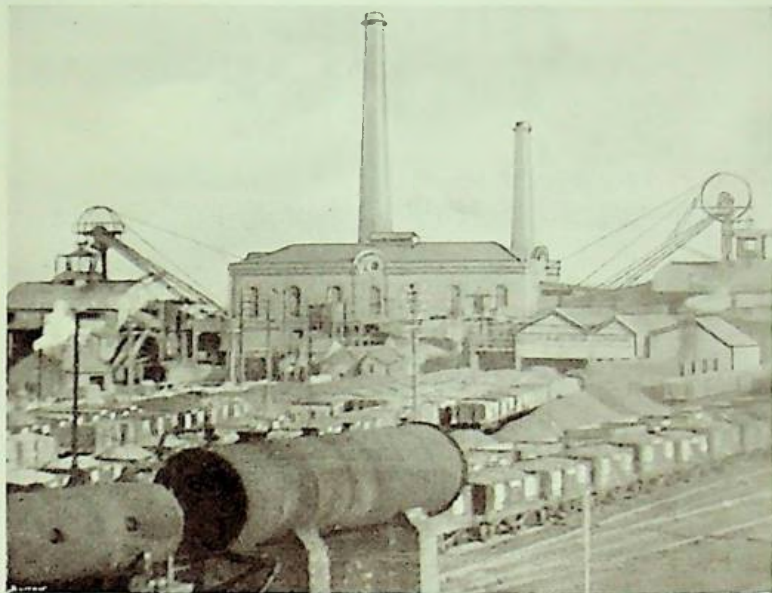
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NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

The timber trade is in a flourishing condition in Wigan, and one of the chief businesses is that of **F. H. Heaton, Ltd.**, which supplies everything in wood and was established in Blackpool in 1928 by Mr. F. H. Heaton, who had formerly been associated with another Blackpool firm for nearly ten years. Mr. Heaton has not confined his firm to timber merchanting; they carry on business as moulding merchants and saw millers.

Much business is done in hardwoods. Mahogany, oak, walnut, African woods and plywood are in constant demand. The firm also do much work



PEMBERTON COLLIERY

in the preparation of picture moulds, this work being carried out on the East Coast entirely by British labour. English timbers, too, are in strong demand to-day.

Among the activities of the firm which should be mentioned are the construction of portable garages and poultry houses, all the work in this connexion being marked by excellence of design, the use of the best materials available, and thoroughly sound workmanship.

The establishment of F. H. Heaton Ltd. is equipped on up-to-date lines; everything which could heighten the efficiency of the work carried out has been installed, including separate electric motors. A fleet of six motor vehicles is maintained to effect delivery.

At the beginning of 1933 a branch establishment was opened at Leigh Street, Wigan, and this has proved very successful. Mr. F. H. Heaton, the managing director, is a member of the Blackpool and District Master Builders' Association. He attributes the success of the business to a firm insistence upon quality and service. Cheap timber is never stocked. Always seeking to supply timbers and timber products which can be relied upon, Messrs. F. H. Heaton Ltd. have in a very short time won a high reputation, and have seen their business steadily expand. A staff of thirty highly-expert workers is maintained.

ECONOMY

—to-day's watchword

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE INDISPUTABLE

FOOCHOW VALUE

in

DURABLE GLOSS ENAMEL

For interior and exterior use. The Supreme Hard Gloss Paint. For the decoration and preservation of property of every description where a full gloss and durable finish is required.

It is essentially a coat of paint and a coat of hard wearing elastic varnish in one. Its hard gloss outlasts any other and may be repeatedly washed without impairing the permanent surface.

FOOCHOW WATER-PAINT

Oil Bound and Washable. A durable hygienic and pleasing wall-covering possessing a beauty and permanence superior to any previously accomplished. In a large and attractive range of shades.

FOOCHOW FLAT OIL-PAINT

A Product of the highest order. Gives a unique and perfect flat finish for walls and general decoration.

FOOCHOW GENERAL WHITE

A universal White to withstand great exposure for interior and exterior use.

Makers of "FOOCHOW"—

The Indestructible Protective Film

We have specialized for half-a-century on the all-important problem of protection for steel structures of every description.

Let us offer you the knowledge gained from our accumulated experience.

CALL US IN!

DONALD MACPHERSON & CO. LTD.
KNOTT MILL, MANCHESTER and at MITCHAM, LONDON

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

Another firm whose business, founded at Liverpool, has grown sufficiently to warrant the opening of a branch in Wigan, is **Rush Bros. & Co.**, whose branch office is at Crompton Street. Here stocks of all types of portable buildings, timbers and mouldings are available. Apart from the supply of timber to builders and contractors, the firm specialize in the manufacture of portable buildings, and the extensive plant of woodworking machinery at the head office in Seaforth enables Messrs. Rush to give immediate attention to all orders, large or small. The Wigan branch will be pleased to quote for any building to customers' own designs, or to send lists free of timber; greenhouses, greenhouse timber, heaters, etc.; poultry houses and appliances; garages (wood and asbestos); garden sheds.

Many years of experience lie behind **E. Cowburn Berry & Co.** Though the firm was established only in 1928, the senior partner, Mr. R. H. Berry, has been in the timber trade for over thirty years, and the junior partner, Mr. E. C. Berry, received his training with two of the leading Manchester timber merchants. The firm has undertaken many large contracts, and carries out a great deal of work for the Wigan Corporation and many builders in the town and district.

Page & Taylor Ltd., timber and door importers, keep a large stock of timber, and also windows, doors, gates and other articles in constant demand for building purposes. Their mills are at Preston.

PAINT MANUFACTURE

Success and a high reputation as suppliers of industrial paints have been attained by **Donald Macpherson & Co. Ltd.**, of Manchester and Mitcham, Surrey.

Their "Foochow" materials have been approved by the Electricity Commissioners for the painting of electrical transformers and other sub-station plant, which proves their durability and reliability. Another noteworthy fact is that "Foochow" was used throughout for Manchester's seventeen-storey skyscraper.

The firm have in recent years added the production of high-class decorative finishes to their achievements. They manufacture the well-known "Foochow" range of decorators' materials. These are made under ideal conditions; the factory has recently been reorganized and refitted—and, incidentally, the turnover doubled.

The wide range of colours to be obtained in these paints is quite remarkable: "modern" colours for cheerful schemes are well represented. The firm's "Foochow" water-paint is an exceptionally durable and hygienic wall covering which dries with a soft velvet finish, and it can be applied to wood, wall-paper, stone, cement, or plaster. Their Durable Gloss enamel has such elasticity that it can withstand all climatic conditions without cracking and chalking, and it has a hiding power complete in one coat; it is undoubtedly supreme in its class for both interior and exterior work.

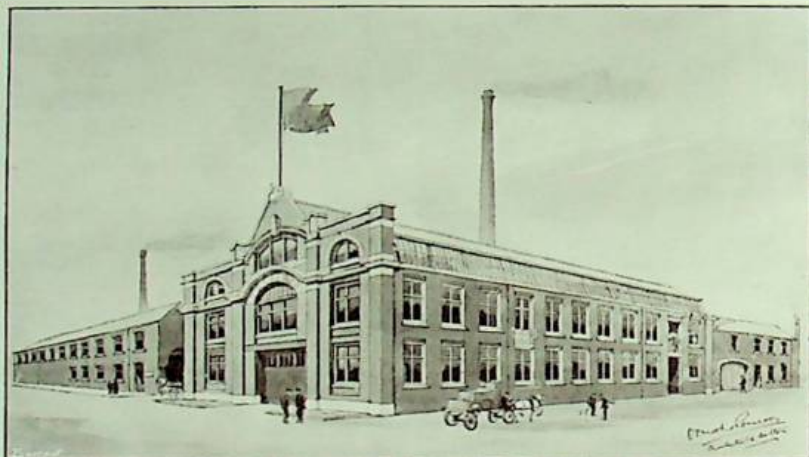
"Foochow" flat oil paint gives a beautiful and washable finish and is far superior to distemper for newly plastered walls, old distempered walls and oil-painted walls; it has the further advantage that it can be applied to any kind of surface. "Foochow" decorators' fine varnishes are included in the commendable line of Macpherson's products: they are guaranteed fully matured and are marketed in perfect condition.

In connexion with the manufacture of paint, mention might be made of **Bryant & Harvey**, who are agents for all that is best in paints, varnishes, wallpapers, brushes, etc., and keep large stocks at their showrooms in Standishgate.

William Hurst & Sons L^{td}.

ELLESMERE PRESERVE WORKS
NEWTOWN, WIGAN

Telephone—Wigan 3320



THE PRESENT ELLESMERE PRESERVE WORKS, WIGAN

Manufacturers of high-class

JAMS
MARMALADE
BOTTLED FRUITS
PICKLES

Enquiries are solicited

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY

The manufacture of clothing is represented among Wigan's many industries, and nation-wide service is rendered by **Brown & Haigh**, of Wood Street Mills. This firm maintains a high reputation for the manufacture of men's and boys' ready-made suits and overcoats, and ladies' and maids' ready-made coats, costumes and coat-frocks. A unique feature is the fact that the firm makes up perfect suits and costumes to special measurements, and can even, in the case of very urgent orders, despatch the completed garment within four hours of receiving the initial instructions. Only the finest materials and the most skilled craftsmen are employed. The works in Wigan occupy nearly eight hundred workers, and showrooms are situated in various industrial areas throughout the country where representative stocks are displayed.

Contract work, for national and municipal authorities and institutions, is also undertaken in addition to standard tailoring work.

A firm which has made rapid strides in the bespoke tailoring world and is particularly well known in Great Britain, is **W. J. & A. Pilling Ltd.**, of 91 Wallgate, who make the well-known "Rufiad" branded clothing. Having a thoroughly efficient and able staff the firm is in a position to give to the retailer excellent service and guaranteed satisfaction.

In 1920 a completely new trade was brought to the Wigan district by **Lord & Sharman Ltd.**, manufacturers of children's boots, shoes and slippers, and specialists in Veldtschoens. In the space of comparatively few years this firm has created such a demand for its products that the works are now equipped with a really up-to-date mass-production plant, with a capacity of some 25,000 pairs per week.

FRUIT PRESERVING

The preservation of fruit on a commercial scale spread throughout England at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. In this new industry Wigan was strongly represented and at the present time three large factories are operating. The reputation of **William Hurst & Sons Ltd.**, one of these companies engaged in the manufacture of jam and pickles, was established in 1907 by the present managing director, whose humble beginning in no way discouraged him from pursuing his ambition of firmly establishing the industry and later of acquiring the whole block of factory buildings of which he leased only a small portion at that time. This company, employing fifty men and women, preserves several hundred tons of fresh fruit and vegetables under the most hygienic conditions embodying some of the latest mechanical processes for handling fruit, and conducts its business throughout the North of England and Wales.

THE BREWING INDUSTRY AND ASSOCIATED HOTELS

Brewing is represented by **J. B. Almond** of Standish, and **Magee Marshall & Co. Ltd.**, of the Crown Brewery, Bolton.

The policy of the latter firm, which was founded in 1853, has always been that their business should rest on the sure foundation of purity and quality. To ensure this, every possible mechanical and scientific aid has been employed in making the conditions under which the beer is brewed hygienically perfect; and the plant, casks and all utensils are as scrupulously clean and fresh as it is possible to make them. Only with such equipment, and the use of the best malt and the finest hops, brewed with Burton water, is it possible to produce beer of so consistently high a quality and flavour as Magee's India Pale Ale.

This firm controls the excellent **Minorca Hotel Grill Room**, which is sufficiently well-known to require no introduction.

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

Newtown Brewery is another important concern which first came into existence when the late Mr. Thomas Farrimond purchased the hostel, New Inn, situated at the junction of Warrington and Ormskirk Roads, Newtown. He commenced to brew there more than sixty years ago.

The malt, which was stored in one of the public rooms of the inn, had to be ground by hand in those days, and on many occasions the customers would frequently help in grinding the malt for the next day's brew.

After some years Mr. Farrimond purchased the Bowling Green Hotel, which had a small brew-house behind, parts of which still remain in the present brewery. The bowling green attached to the hotel, where, no doubt, many good games of bowls have been played, is now occupied by the fermenting rooms, cart and barrel sheds and bottling stores, where up-to-date plant has been installed.

The brewery has, from time to time, been installed with modern plant improvements for the purpose of producing good wholesome beer.

The **Victoria Hotel**, owned by The Oldfield Brewery Ltd., and the only licensed residential hotel in Wigan, is situated on the main highway from London to Scotland and is adjacent to both L.M.S. railway stations. It has the finest lounge in the district, and excellent catering, and is in great favour with motorists passing through the town; consequently it has achieved a reputation both locally and in distant districts.

The hotel provides teas and non-alcoholic refreshments at any hour, and overnight visitors will find every comfort, including running hot and cold water in all bedrooms.

ANIMAL FOOD MANUFACTURE

In 1921 the firm of **Vigour Dog Foods Ltd.** was established as a partnership for the manufacture of dog and poultry foods. It consisted, at that time, of three brothers, a wooden shed, a milk float and unlimited optimism. To-day it turns out one-thirtieth of this country's total production of dog foods and over one hundred tons of poultry food every week, in the modern all-electric factory which finds employment for sixty workers.

The firm's research into the feeding of dogs has produced the **Vigour fresh meat biscuit**—the nearest approach to a dog's natural food; and its scientific development of poultry foods has made it possible to rear every rearable chick.

The rapid development of the business may be attributed to the growing appreciation of commonsense methods of dog and poultry feeding, and to the excellent service which the firm gives by its own fleet of waggons.

MISCELLANEOUS AND RETAIL

There are several cafés so well known in Wigan that they may almost be said to play a conspicuous part in the social life of the town. The business man lunches there; the housewife snatches a quiet half-hour from an afternoon's shopping to have tea there. Everyone in Wigan knows **Café Makinson**, for instance, that elegant and comfortable shop in Wallgate, with a justly-earned reputation for the supreme quality of its tea and coffee and the excellence of its confectionery.

Likewise everyone knows **Barnes Café**, one of the features of Market Street, and Mr. Whittler, the proprietor, has a large clientele who regularly patronize him for light luncheons and dainty teas.

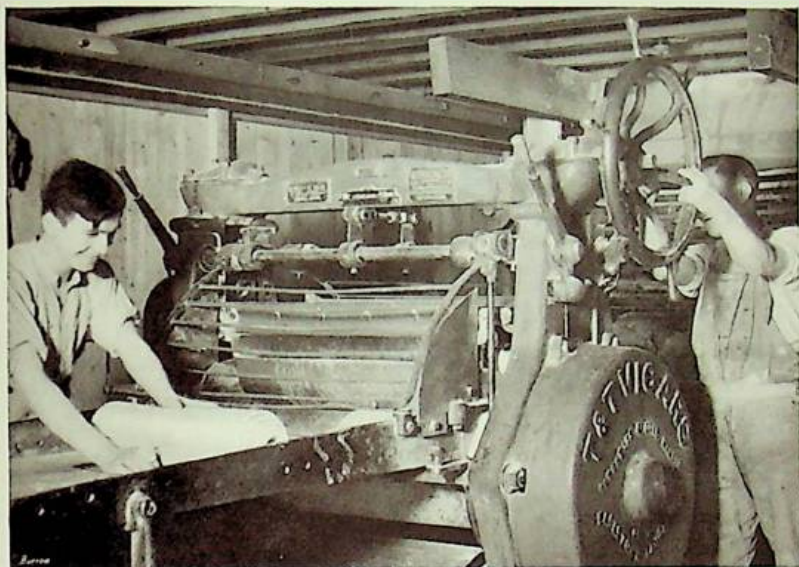
Then there is the **Rendezvous Café**, which was established in 1914 in the basement of the Moot Hall, and after sundry moves reached the present premises at 7 Standishgate, which were thoroughly reconstructed to give the maximum of efficiency and comfort. The kitchen is installed with the latest electric appliances and all the delicious confectionery is made

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

on the premises. The café is available for private meetings and receptions, and the whole business is under the direct personal supervision of the managing director, Mr. Southworth, and the manageress.

While on the subject of catering, mention should certainly be made of Halls' "Delightful" Bread, which is sold everywhere in Wigan and needs no introduction for its wholesome quality.

Nearly a century has passed since John Gee & Son established themselves in business as wholesale and retail grocers, corn and flour and seed



ONE OF THE MILLING OPERATIONS IN THE FACTORY OF
VIGOUR DOG FOODS LTD., GOLBORNE

merchants. The activities of this firm cover a wide field, and as importers of choice produce they place important contracts with Denmark and the Colonies.

Not only private householders, but shopkeepers, hotel and boarding house proprietors, farmers and stockkeepers find their needs amply supplied at this well-known store.

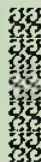
The present proprietor, Mr. J. T. Griffiths, has an unrivalled experience which finds expression in thoroughly efficient and capable management.

The well-known registered brands of groceries, "Enter-Prize" and "Enterprise," are packed by G. Thompson (Provision Merchants) Ltd., whose business, established in the closing days of 1925, has grown with amazing rapidity in the intervening years. In the early days the business was confined within a radius of a few miles, but to-day trade is done over Lancashire and Cheshire, and during the course of a year the firm handles thousands of tons of bacon, butter and cheese, to say nothing of other provisions.

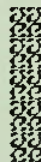
ASK FOR



HALLS'
"DELIGHTFUL"
BREAD



Every Slice a Delight



SOLD EVERYWHERE!

Telephone 2779

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

The retail grocery trade is represented by **R. Baines**, of 25 Darlington Street.

The **Wigan and District Equitable Co-operative Society Limited**, whose registered office is at Standishgate, commenced business in 1889, with the following objects: To supply members with the necessities of life at fair prices consistent with quality and labour conditions; to apportion the trading surplus to members according to their purchases; to provide facilities for members' investments at a fair rate of interest with adequate security; to enable members to become house owners by advancing money on mortgage; and to cater for the social and educational welfare of its members. The society is therefore something more than a trading concern and is managed and controlled by its members, who provide its share capital and elect the Board of Management from among themselves.

Shares are of the nominal value of £1 each, with a limit of £200, upon which interest is paid at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

All goods sold by the Society are made under trade union rates of wages and conditions, and its forty branches and departments have a reputation for clean and courteous service.

In addition to the dividend, all purchasing members are assured in the event of death. The total claims paid by the Society to members under this scheme number 1,820, and show an average claim of over £7 12s., or a total payment of £14,150.

The oldest established seed and florist business in Wigan is that of **Bell & Son**, which was started by the late Mr. Thomas Bell in 1853 in a shop in Wallgate, approximately where the entrance to the L.M.S.R. passenger station now is. It was removed to No. 32 Wallgate, near the Church gates, in 1860 or '61, and was there until 1885, when the Government purchased the land from the Earl of Crawford for the new post office, and the business was removed to Market Street. Seed and bulb catalogues are published each Spring and Autumn and may be had on application. The firm's specialities are vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs, garden sundries and floral designs.

At Newton-le-Willows is one of the best-stocked nurseries in the Wigan district, belonging to **John Randall & Son**, specialists in ornamental and flowering trees and shrubs and all classes of nursery stock. Landscape gardening of every description is undertaken by skilled and experienced workmen, and recent contracts include: the new Liverpool-East Lancashire road, comprising twenty-five miles planting of trees, shrubs, hedges, etc., for the Lancashire County Council; the playing fields at Edge Hill Training College, Ormskirk; and for Leyland, Newton and Hindley Grammar Schools; a bowling green for the Abram Urban District Council; all the trees and shrubs planted in Newton Park; and the designing and planting of numerous private gardens.

The firm of **G. R. Croskell**, wholesale electrical suppliers, of 20 Rodney Street, is under the able supervision of Mr. Croskell, who commenced his career in the electrical trade as a youth with the Wigan Corporation. After serving his apprenticeship, Mr. Croskell held appointments with several of the leading electrical manufacturers in Manchester and Liverpool; in the latter city he took over the management of a firm of electrical wholesalers, and eventually commenced business on his own account in 1924 as an electrical wholesaler and manufacturers' agent. Mr. Croskell caters for the wants of the electrical trade in all its branches and carries stocks of all main lines.

Sixty years of reputation and experience lie behind the firm of **Robinson's Sports and Saddlery Works Ltd.**, the wholesale and retail sports outfitters and saddlers, whose founder is an International gold medallist. The reputation of this firm has been built up by the excellent equipment supplied in the past to clubs, many of which entrust the firm

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

with their complete contracts. Secretaries of clubs are invited to ask for free estimates and samples of quality.

All classes of repairs are undertaken in the workshops, thus effecting a saving of time and money. The firm never refuse work of any kind, as they have expert knowledge and can give sound advice freely. The fact that they get repeat orders for tennis re-strings from Liverpool, Preston and Southport, among other places, proves conclusively that the firm's many customers are well satisfied with the quality of the work and the low charges made. Special efforts are made to deal with urgent orders. All the goods supplied by the firm are guaranteed and any found to be defective in manufacture are exchanged freely.

In addition, a large stock of leather, tools and art craft materials is stocked, including calfskins, natural and coloured hides, push buttons, purse fasteners, bag frames, and all other tools and requisites.

Mr. J. J. Broughton, known familiarly and affectionately in the Wigan district as " Jack " Broughton, keeps a sports shop in Market Street, which is almost as well known as he is himself. To quote the *Wigan Examiner*: " He came to Wigan as a cricketer, had a twenty years' association with the Wigan Cricket Club, during which time he scored for it 6,300 runs and took 860 wickets, and he now stays with us as a high-class sports outfitter, a low handicap golfer, and a highly esteemed citizen. . . . Mr. Broughton, who has built up a very successful business as a sports outfitter in Wigan and at Doncaster, has also built up a very wide circle of friends, achievements which are quite natural to one who plays ' cricket ' always in whatever branch of sport or business he indulges."

William Hollis & Sons, of 37 Prescott Street, have become well known throughout the district as motor haulage contractors since the business was established in 1919. The firm have a wide experience in building and road construction haulage work and are suppliers of road materials in large and small quantities; they are the only firm in the district specializing in all-mechanical hydraulic tipping lorries; by this means four tons can be tipped in ten seconds—thus the load is quickly dumped and the lorry is soon away, and traffic blocks are avoided in congested areas.

Fairclough's are very well known as storage and removal contractors, packers and shippers. Removals are undertaken by road, rail and sea, and everything entrusted to their care is packed and stored only by experienced men. The firm also own a fleet of " Tiger " safety saloon coaches, new each season and equipped with radio, central heating and low-pressure tyres. The tours and excursions arranged, to such centres as Blackpool, Windermere, Keswick, Bournemouth, Torquay, and Land's End, are deservedly popular. Coaches are also available for private hire. Continental Winter Tours are also catered for and well patronized.

George Tinsley & Son have for forty years filled the very important role of general carriers, bringing all their resources to bear upon the problem of removing every kind of goods from one place to another with the minimum of delay and inconvenience. The present position is eloquent testimony that they have succeeded admirably in this difficult task.

The present premises of the **Wigan, Leigh and District Workshops for the Blind**, in Darlington Street, were acquired and adapted for use in 1929. By arrangement with the local authorities this Society has undertaken the sole responsibility for the welfare of all blind persons resident in Wigan, Leigh and the country areas surrounding these towns.

The branches of employment carried on include skip, basket, brush and mat-making, machine knitting, cane and rush chair-seating and firewood manufacture. The workshops specialize particularly in street, factory and

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

mill brushes, mill doffing and packing skips and repairs of all types. A retail branch is maintained in Wigan Market Hall and orders may be left there for prompt attention.

By concentrating on high quality in output the goods turned out have been made equal to any on the market, and, combined with competitive ranges of prices, this factor has been instrumental in considerably increasing the trade done during the past five years.

In addition to providing employment, the Society grants regular financial assistance to all persons in need and has entirely removed the necessity for any blind person to solicit individual assistance. The workshops render a much needed service, and are worthy of the wholehearted support of the public of Wigan, Leigh and district. By placing orders for manufactured goods, and by assisting financially where possible, the public can greatly assist the progress of the Society, whose aim is to "Help the Blind to Help Themselves" whenever possible.

The firm of **Slaters (Wigan) Ltd.** was founded forty years ago to sell surgical appliances by Mr. Thos. Slater, who, now seventy-seven years of age, and still hale and hearty, is a director of the firm, and although he takes no active part in its management he is keenly interested in its progress. In the beginning, Mr. Slater, always a staunch advocate of advertising, had a staff of three men regularly employed in circularising Wigan and district, and to this no doubt is due the fact that, within a radius of twenty miles, the name of Slater is a household word.

In 1909, Mr. F. Slater, Ph.C., M.P.S., having negotiated the Minor and Major examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, entered the business, and the surgical appliance department was supplemented by that of pharmacy. It was soon realized, however, that separate premises were absolutely essential to ensure that privacy and accuracy of fitting which a first-class surgical appliance business demands, and in 1913 the premises at 51 Darlington Street were acquired. Here, with three fully-equipped fitting rooms, two highly-trained lady attendants, and three expert gentlemen fitters, with a stock of over 2,000 latest scientific surgical appliances, accurate and comfortable fitting is assured. In 1924 the firm was converted into a private limited company, with Mr. F. Slater, Ph.C., M.P.S.(Lond.), as managing director.

In addition to its large local clientele, the firm enjoys the patronage of numerous satisfied customers from Atherton, Tyldsley, Leigh, Chorley, Ormskirk, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Leyland, Blackburn, Bolton, etc., a fact which strikingly demonstrates the public appreciation of the excellent services rendered by Slaters.

Another pharmacy business which has gained a reputation for quick and reliable dispensing, and speedy and accurate developing, is **Scott & Worthington**, of Market Street.

James Lowe & Sons undertake all services in connexion with the general management of properties, the area of their operations extending through branch offices to cover the districts to Bolton, extending to Manchester, Rochdale, etc., on the one side, and St. Helens, Prescott and Warrington on the other.

Regular auction sales of furniture are held in their sale rooms at Market Square, Wigan, and auction sales of property are given personal attention. The firm specialize also in valuations for probate purposes.

At the present time they are dealing with two large housing estates on two sides of Wigan. One housing estate known as Tunstead Estate, Pemberton, caters for the smaller-house buyer, offering modern houses with every convenience at figures ranging from £390 to £420. At the other end of the town, off Wigan Road, Boars Head, Standish, is Roundmoor Estate, where houses are being built at figures ranging from £470.

PAGE & TAYLOR LTD.

Timber and Door Importers

ELECTRIC SAW MILLS
PRESTON

— All classes of —
Timber for Building Purposes

WINDOWS, DOORS, GATES
SCANTLINGS, BOARDS, DEALS
ENSOWAL AND DONNACONA WALLBOARDS

What's in a Name?

A great deal when you have tried and tested all the goods that are packed under

“ENTERPRISE”

AND REGD.

“ENTER-PRIZE”

BRANDS

You will then realize that the names
“Enterprise” and “Enter-prize” mean
the HALLMARK of quality and value

Be wise and “Enterprise”

Sole Proprietors of these Brands—G. Thompson (Provision Merchants) Ltd. Wigan

NOTES ON SOME LOCAL FIRMS

Arrangements for mortgages are undertaken and every facility is offered by the Huddersfield Building Society, for whom Messrs. Lowe act as agents. Besides experienced collectors, who cover the various areas, there are three branch offices for the convenience of clients, besides the head office at Central Chambers, Wigan, viz.: 13 King Street, Wigan; 22 Acresfield, Bolton; and High Street, Prescott.

From the date of its formation, in 1845, the **Royal Insurance Company** has been steadily progressive and occupies to-day a foremost position among British Insurance Offices.

Its history, during the last ninety years, is a romance of modern progress. From small beginnings in Liverpool its operations rapidly extended, not only in the United Kingdom but to the principal centres of commerce abroad.

Of the remarkable development of the Company, there can be no better indication than that obtained by a comparison of its financial position in 1846, at the end of the first eighteen months of its operations, and at the present day. The total annual income has increased from £75,000 in 1846 to over £16,000,000 in 1933, whilst its total funds have risen from £63,000 to more than £44,000,000. In satisfaction of the claims of its policy-holders, it has paid no less than £200,000,000.

In October, 1926, to afford increased facilities to its many agents and clients in the Wigan district, the Company opened an office in Leader's Buildings, 31a King Street.

In addition to the head offices in Liverpool and London, the Company has over 130 offices in Great Britain and Ireland, and is represented in practically every civilized country in the world.

RUPTURES

*Lady and Gentlemen
Attendants*

Private Fitting Rooms

Require treatment on the latest scientific principles

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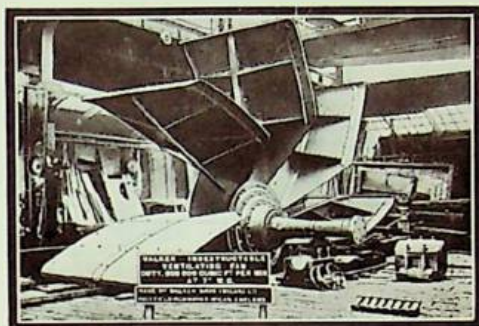
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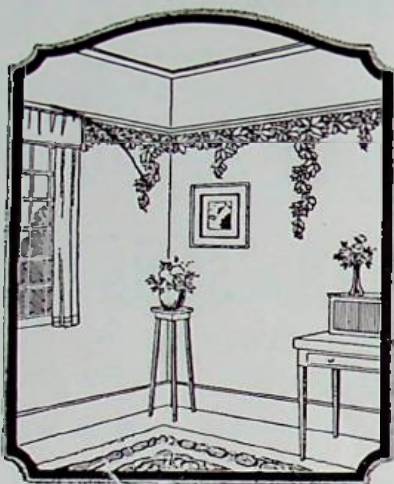
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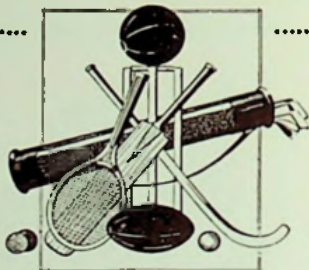
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