



## HUNT & WINTERBOTHAM

LTD.

CAM MILLS, DURSLEY.

Manufacturers of Highest Grade Woollens.

IN several respects the history of the Cam Mills, near Dursley, is of peculiar interest. Apart from their size and the extent and character of the industry carried on in them, they are interesting as being one of the very few survivals of the scores of mills that flourished in the neighbourhood of Dursley one hundred years ago. The most marked and rapid development of the business dates from the association of Messrs. Thomas Hunt and A. B. Winterbotham, the latter becoming a member of the firm in 1859, and he may be said to have laid the foundation of what has now become one of the leading industries of the kind in the West of England. Under his direction, and that of the present limited liability company, which was formed in 1887, additions to the buildings and equipment have been almost continuous.

Nearly forty years ago the firm adopted the system of dealing with the retailer direct, being the first firm in the West of England to do so. By this system the middleman's profits are saved, the consumer reaping the benefit of the reduced cost thus made possible.

Perhaps the most striking evidence of the enlargement of the Cam Mills may be gained from the excellent engraving shown on this page, and which was kindly loaned us by Messrs. Hunt and Winterbotham for "Industrial Gloucestershire." In 1859, when the late Mr. A. B. Winterbotham became the head of the firm, the entire plant consisted of but one building, that now surmounted by the tower, as shown in the engraving. From this it will be seen how greatly the plant has been added to in the past several years. Co-incident with the erection of new buildings has been the continual improvement of the mechanical equipment, by which the productive capacity of the operatives (who now number over 400) has been so greatly increased. It is particularly gratifying to know that the most important additions—viz., new wool sheds, dye-houses, weaving sheds, soft water plant, offices, and cottages for workpeople—have been erected during the past five years. At the present time the Company's premises comprise an area of approximately eight acres, a large proportion of which is under roof. A private railway siding extends through the premises, and a separate small railway connects the wool sheds with the dye-houses and other buildings.

While limited space precludes anything like a detailed description of the various departments, it may be interesting to refer in a word to several of the more noticeable features. The wool sheds (shown at the extreme right of the accompanying engraving) were erected in 1900, are the largest in the Stroud Valley, and in point of construction and arrangement embody the best features which experience and forethought could suggest. The offices, erected at the same time, are also noticeable by reason of their size and handsome appearance, and are furnished with all the latest equipments for business requirements, being connected by telephone with all the principal parts of the works, and lighted by electricity generated on the pre-

mises. The weaving sheds, which contain 120 modern looms, the dye-houses, the finishing rooms, and several other departments are scarcely less conspicuous. In all of the buildings the work is carried on under agreeable conditions, the lighting, ventilation, and general arrangement being such as to promote the comfort and efficiency of the operatives. In this connection it may be added that the cottages erected by the Company for the workpeople embody all modern conveniences, and are provided with separate gardens—a point to which we refer merely as an illustration, of which many may be found in Gloucestershire, of the increasingly wholesome conditions under which a large part of our workpeople live and labour.

As has been stated, the mechanical equipment has been improved as frequently as the progress of invention has made it possible. The water power, which was probably the determining factor in the location of the mills on their present site, has been abandoned, the

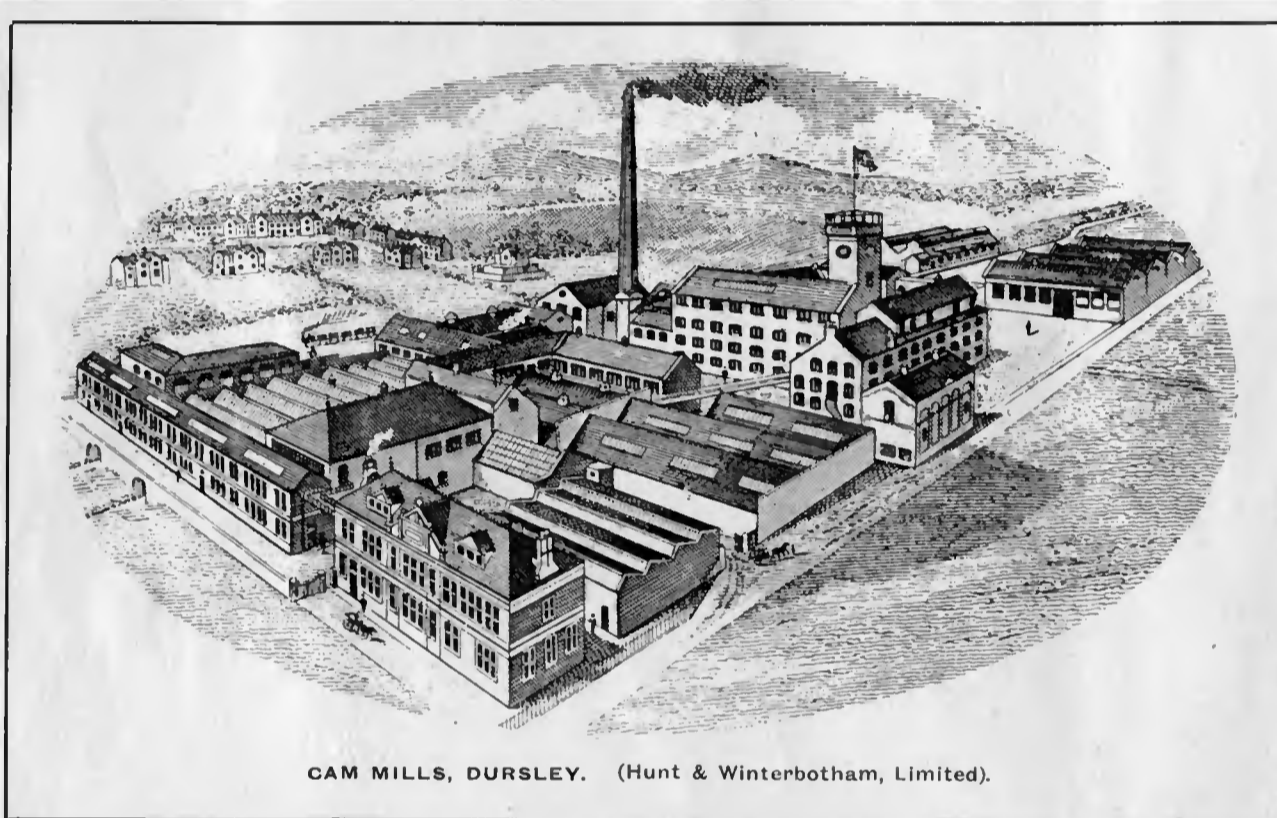
also produced a large quantity of cloth made from pure English wools. Of billiard and bagatelle cloths they are the largest manufacturers in the district, and all of their fabrics have maintained the high reputation which they have so long enjoyed in the trade, both at home and abroad.

The Company's trade extends to all of the British Colonies and to other countries, and they have established agencies in London, Paris, New York, Vienna, Milan, Naples, Toronto, Australia and New Zealand, while their own travellers visit almost all parts of the world. Their London warehouse, where they also have large stocks, is at 8, Carnaby Street, W.



## CHAS. HOOPER & SONS, LTD., EASTINGTON MILLS, STONEHOUSE.

Manufacturers of the Highest Quality of Woollens.



CAM MILLS, DURSLEY. (Hunt & Winterbotham, Limited).

THE business carried on by Messrs. Chas. Hooper and Sons, Limited, at Stonehouse, is among the oldest in the Stroud Valley, having been established for a century or over. It was originally carried on by Messrs. Hicks and Company, who were among the leading cloth makers of their day, in the old mills at Eastington village, about a mile from the present site. On their giving up the business it was taken over by Mr. Chas. Hooper, father of the present firm, and has since remained in the hands of mem-

bers of the same family. The business rapidly expanded, and soon it was found that the altered trade conditions necessitated more commodious and more conveniently arranged premises. The plant was therefore removed to the present premises, where there is ample room and every required facility. From time to time additional buildings have been erected, while scarcely a year has elapsed without witnessing additions to the mechanical equipment. All of the departments are steam heated, and are lighted by gas and electricity. A notable feature of the Eastington Mills is their ideal position, being situated in the open country, near to the railway and canal, and isolated from any other mill or factory of any kind—an important consideration in the manufacture of cloth in delicate shades. In every respect the conditions of manufacture are as high-class as they can be made.

As is well known to the trade, Messrs. Chas. Hooper and Sons have for many years devoted themselves exclusively to the manufacture of the very finest cloths, and have obtained first-class awards at all the exhibitions in which they have shown. Among the specialities for which the Company have become particularly noted should be mentioned their drab Devons (box cloths); military scarlet cloth; scarlet hunting cloths; livery cloths of all kinds; doeskins, beavers, black and blue superfine cloths, and cricketing and tennis flannels of fine quality. For their white and light-coloured cloths a separate department is maintained, and every precaution is taken to prevent soiling.

power now being furnished by a 500 h.-p. engine. By an ingenious electrical arrangement the engine can be instantly stopped in case of accident by any one in any part of the buildings. A portion of the works is lighted by electricity, and this system of lighting will very soon be extended to all of the buildings; the offices have telephonic communication with the various departments; the automatic fire sprinkler system has been installed throughout; and in every possible way provision has been made to facilitate and safeguard production. The mills are entirely self-contained, including, besides the actual manufacturing departments, complete carpentering and fitting shops, in charge of skilled mechanics.

The name of Hunt and Winterbotham has always been associated with the manufacture of the highest grade of woollens, and they have at a number of international exhibitions received medals and awards for excellence of make and superiority of colour. Among their specialities may be mentioned military goods, including fine scarlets for tunics, facing cloth in all colours, staff cloth in blue and scarlet, and regulation grey and blue beavers; hunting goods, including waterproof and scarlet and green hunters, treble black, blue and scarlet hunting meltons, white buckskins, dressed and melton finish, white hunting cords and diagonals, and drab Bedford cords; livery cloth of all colours, fine worsted and woollen coatings, and suitings in black, blue and mixtures; Llamas, vicunas, chevriots, angolas, doeskins, cricket and tennis flannels, shirtings, etc.; carriage, billiard, and bagatelle cloths, and piano and printers' cloths. They have recently

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