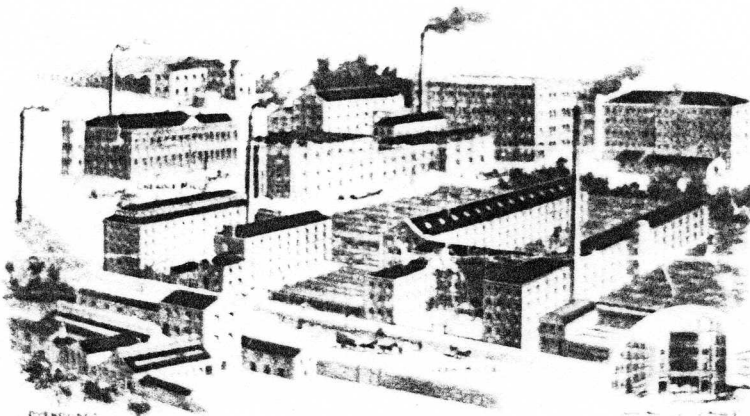


THE ROYAL VISIT TO LEEK,

April 23, 1913.



*A view of the mills of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson &
Hall Ltd. which were visited by Their Majesties
King George and Queen Mary.*

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The Royal Visit to Leek.

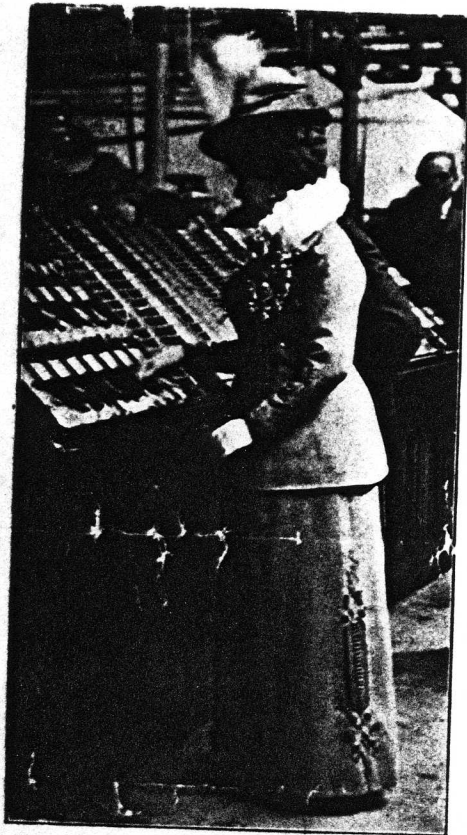
THE KING AND QUEEN PAY A VISIT OF INSPECTION TO FAMOUS SILK MILLS—A TOUR OF THE PREMISES OF MESSRS. BROUGH, NICHOLSON AND HALL, LIMITED.

THE visit of their Majesties to the ancient town of Leek, on April 23, was an event which will live long in the memories of all who witnessed their triumphal progress through the decorated streets, and had an opportunity of seeing the lively interest King George and Queen Mary take in the welfare of their subjects.

The Royal decision to visit, in the course of a somewhat crowded day, one of more of the more important commercial undertakings was a determination which gave the keenest gratification to the citizens in all grades of life there. As long ago as January last

Ashbourne road to the silk mills and factories of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Limited. These works are one of the oldest and most extensive for many miles around, and are equipped with some of the finest and most modern machinery engaged in the silk industry. It is some years since the King and Queen, then Duke and Duchess of York, visited Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall's works, and naturally many improvements in plant and general equipment have taken place since then. The King and Queen, with their entourage, alighted from the motor at a handsome arch erected by Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Limited, at the end of King Street. This was the entrance to the mills, and the crowds lining the decorated streets raised hoarse cheers as the party arrived punctually to schedule time. At the gates Sir Arthur Nicholson and Mr. John Hall were awaiting their Royal visitors. Sir Arthur, receiving permission at once to present other members of the firm Messrs. A. H. Moore, H. Sibley, J. Taitton, J. H. Hall, G. P. Hall, R. K. Hall and A. E. Nicholson.

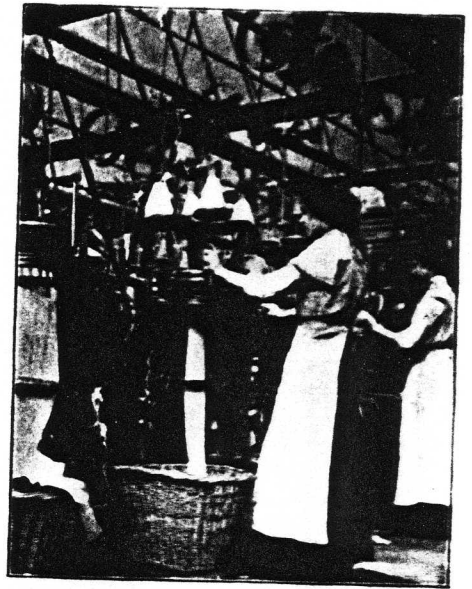
The first room visited was that where the spinning operations



(Note: Ernest Burgess.)

The Queen in the Silk Mills.

Queen Mary examines the specimens of sewing and embroidery silks.



(Note: Daily Mirror.)

Knitting Motor Scarves.

A view in the department where the knitted scarves and shawls are made.

are conducted, and the uses of the complicated and ingenious machinery were explained to the King and Queen. The first view viewed included that of spinning by hand, and the first wound on bobbins, speeded up electric power on to each separate reel by means of a guide controlled and operated by the worker. Attention was also directed to the semi-automatic spinning on what are known as Taitton System Machines, where the guides are so arranged as to operate automatically and work to the shape of the reels, one worker being able to wind two or more spools at the same time. The automatic spinning machines contain up to 12 spinning heads all worked at the same time, winding silk, or paper, cotton, wool, and paper, cotton, and wool. Mr. Moore explained the various types of spinning machines to the King, whilst Mr. John Hall attended the Queen, who was greatly interested in the automatic spinning.

The second room was that where the newest processes connected with knitted silk are carried out. Mr. J. Taitton explained the various machines in use, and the Royal interest was quickly aroused by the elaborate plant engaged in tubular knitting, flat wide knitting, and knitting patterns for ties, shawls, jerseys, &c. Whilst in this room Sir Arthur Nicholson drew attention to a

it was known that their Majesties intended, during their visit to the Marquis of Crewe, to form a closer acquaintance with the commerce of the Potteries and of Leek, and selections were made of the most representative firms in the neighbourhood where a visit of inspection would be possible. In Leek the printing and finishing works of Sir T. and A. Warrle, and the silk mills of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Limited, were selected.

On the long looked for day their Majesties, accompanied by the Earl and Countess of Dartmouth, the Marquis and Marchioness of Crewe, Lord Derby, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Huxford, &c., arrived punctually at the works of Sir T. and A. Warrle, and were received by Sir Arthur Nicholson and Mr. A. Warrle, the latter conducting the party over the premises, explaining the various processes of dyeing and finishing silks from the grey.

The Royal party then proceeded by way of Broad Street and

display of finished articles, scarves, ties, and knitted goods generally, and asked their Majesties to choose and accept what they would as souvenirs of the visit. The request was very

was the next visiting place, too being here purchases of by the visitors. Sir Arthur Nicholson is a very successful breeder of shire horses, and had the honor of showing some of his finest



Photo: L. E. A.

In the Grounds at Highfield Hall.

The King, with Mr. Falkner Nicholson, inspecting Sir Arthur Nicholson's famous shire mares.

willingly acceded to. The Queen selected five scarves, a Royal blue and black, a blue and white, a delicate grey and white, and a delicate grey, remarking that she would be pleased to receive

specimens to the King. It was from His Majesty that Sir Arthur purchased the celebrated stallion, Hoo Forest King. The mares paraded before the King included Palfrey, forming the famous



Photo: Daily Mirror.

Making Spun Silk.

One of the processes in the manufacture of spun silk from silk waste.

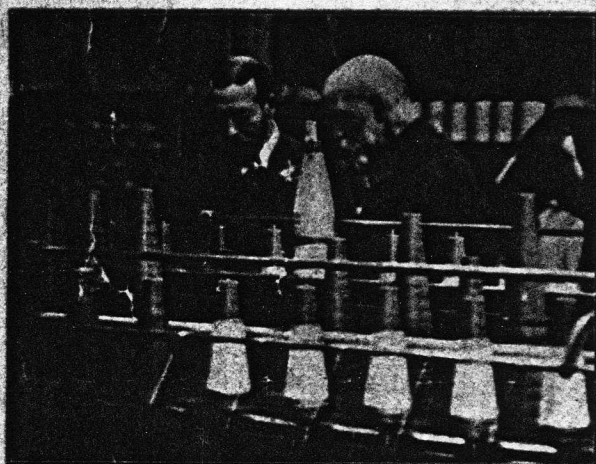


Photo: Ernest Brooks.

Inspecting the Automatic Spooling.

The King displays great interest in the ingenious machinery at Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall's factory.

one herself and give the others to the Royal Princes. She also accepted a handsome knitted silk jacket of Saxe blue for Princess Mary. His Majesty selected a grey and blue scarf, whilst Lord Derby was delighted to get hold of one in his racing colours—black and white—and place it round his neck.

The manufacture of spun silk from silk waste was another process inspected, Mr. Falkner Nicholson conducting the party through the department. In this there were seen all the various stages of the manufacture of the waste of raw silk into perfect threads, raw waste silk, Piedmont, French, China, &c., as received. The waste silk is boiled in strong soap lather to remove all the natural gum contained in it, something like 25 per cent. It is then laid in great heaps and allowed to mature for months. Waste taken from the heap discharged is placed on the preparing machine, in which are several cylinders of revolving spikes, which pull and straighten out the waste. Taken from preparing machine it goes on to the dressing and combing frames, where it is combed into different lengths all separated. The drafts are taken from the dressing-room and placed on the spreading frames on endless leather bands, which carry the drafts under small combs and round a revolving drum, from which they are wound in laps. These laps are then passed through various processes of drawing, gill, and dandy-rovings. The roving bobbins are then taken to the spinning frames and spun into single threads. The single threads are put on to the twisting frames, where they are twisted into two threads, three threads, &c., for machine silk, embroidery silk, weaving silk, &c. After these processes comes gassing, cleaning, reeling into hanks, picking, and bundling.

This completed the visit to the works of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Limited, and after expressing their appreciation of what they had seen the Royal party left for the Town Hall, where several members of the Council were presented.

Highfield Hall, the residence of Sir Arthur and Lady Nicholson,

London champion shire mare, and Mollington Maupers, a winner of numerous first and champion prizes.

The firm are to be highly congratulated on the successful carry-



Photo: L. E. A.

Leaving Highfield Hall.

The King and Queen saying good-bye to Sir Arthur and Lady Nicholson.

ing out of their plans. The works themselves were models of cleanliness and orderliness, and there were no untoward incidents to mar the pleasure of a visit so highly appreciated.

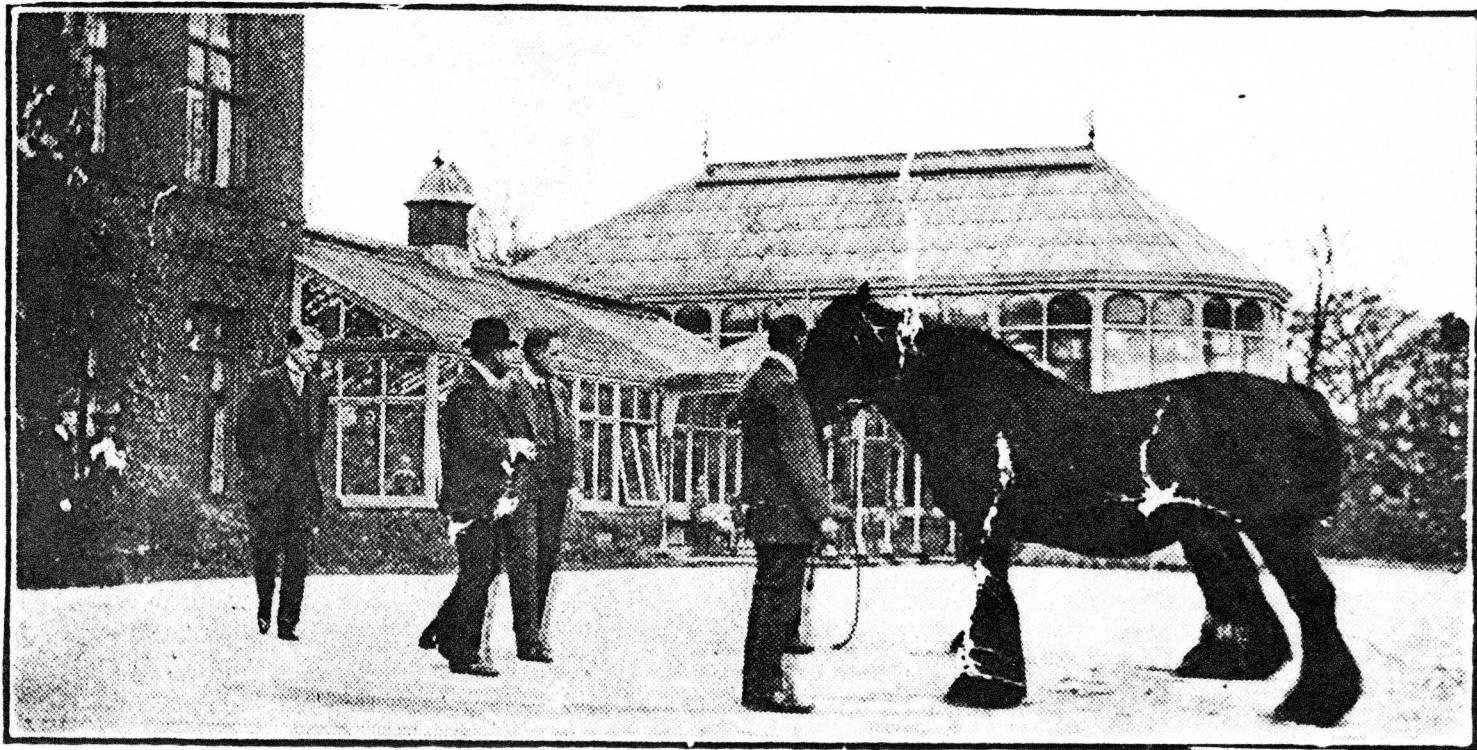


Photo : L.E.A.

In the Grounds at Highfield Hall.

The King, with Mr. Falkner Nicholson, inspecting Sir Arthur Nicholson's famous shire mares.

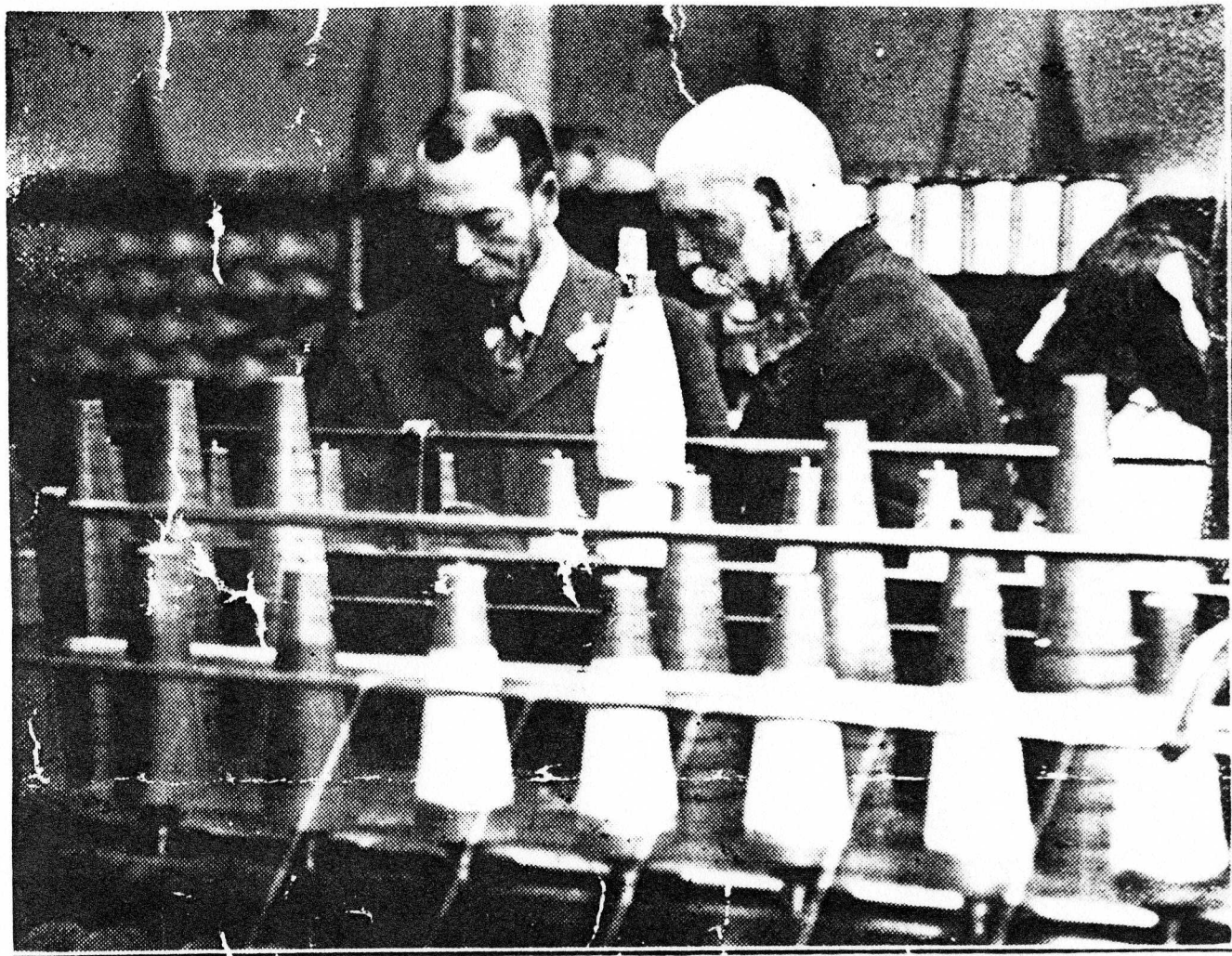


Photo: Ernest Brinks.

Inspecting the Automatic Spooling.

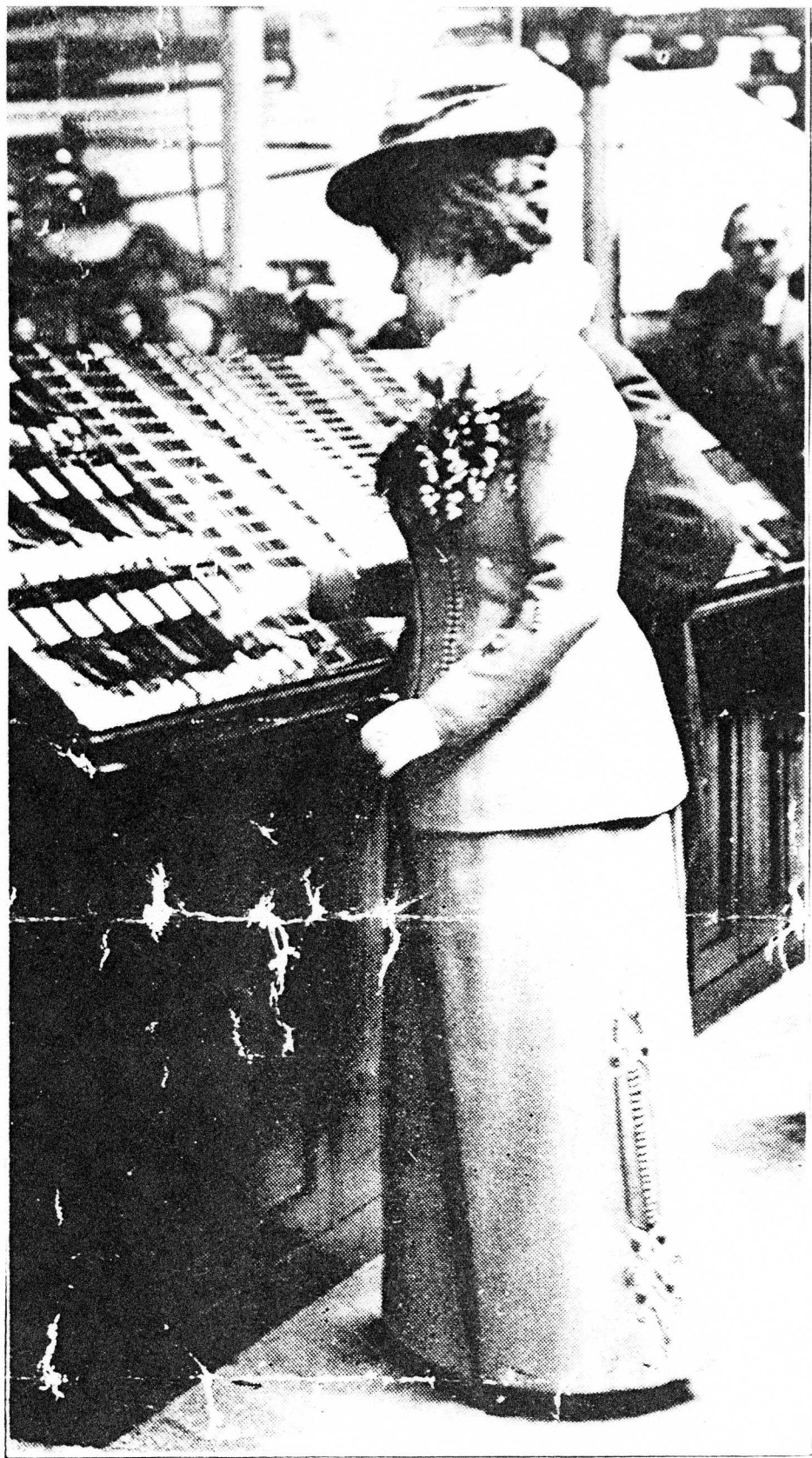
The King displays great interest in the ingenious machinery at Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall's factory.



The Knitting Shop.

Knitting Motor Scarves.

A view of the department where the knitted scarves are made.



The Queen in the Silk Mills.