

PREFACE.

ON April 1, 1932, in celebration of its 110th Birthday, the "Stockport Advertiser" published a special supplement containing a history of Stockport during the period, 1922-1932, thus bringing up-to-date the "Stockport Advertiser" Centenary History of Stockport, which was published when the paper attained its Centenary in 1922. The articles contained in the special supplement have been revised, indexed, and printed in book form, for the convenience of those possessing the original work.

Just as the hundred years between 1822 and 1922 was of vital importance in the history of the town in that it coincided with some of the greatest social changes in the history of the country and saw the completion of that process of industrialisation of the town which had begun in the later years of the eighteenth century, so the decade which has just passed is of prime significance, though for another reason. Stockport in 1922 was just recovering from the effects of the Great War. Progress in many ways had stood still in the interests of that one supreme consideration, the successful prosecution of the war. In 1922 the first thrills of victory and feelings of thankfulness at the war's end had passed, and Stockport was beginning to take up the threads of normal life again, and to plan those schemes of reconstruction which were so necessary after four years of pre-occupation with the demands made upon its resources by a world war. Freed from these insistent claims on its energies the town had recovered its corporate poise, and now had time to think about its own domestic affairs. Thus began a period of rebuilding and development which has gone on steadily during the last ten years with the object of making the town's services adequate to the needs of an increased population.

The decade has not been without its excitements. Industrial difficulties have brought strikes and disturbances in their train. The town suffered, in common with the rest of the country, all the inconveniences and unhappy consequences of the General Strike of 1926. Phenomenal unemployment has caused unrest, but fortunately, though there have been demonstrations there has been no disorder. Stockport has suffered, and is still suffering, from the long continued trade depression, like all industrial towns, but the fact that it has wisely forbore to put all its eggs into one basket but gathered to itself a diversity of trades has served to mitigate its hardships in comparison with some of the Lancashire cotton towns. But there has been, and there still is, a great deal of unemployment in the town, and not only on account of the depression in the cotton trade. The engineering and hatting industries have also felt the effects of the slump, the former particularly in Reddish, where two large concerns—the local branch of Messrs. Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., and Messrs. Scotts' wire-rope works—closed down, throwing a great many men and women out of employment. There are now signs of improvement in all these industries. The Imports Duties Act is bringing at least one new trade to the town, and