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possibly others will follow, and we may look forward to a happier decade to come in the local industrial world than the one which has passed.

Despite industrial setbacks, however, the town has continued to grow. In 1922 Stockport had a population of 123,309; the 1931 census gave it as 125,505. An increase of 2,199 in ten years may not be thought very large, but in view of the general tendency which was revealed throughout the country towards a stationary population, the figure must be regarded as satisfactory. The rateable value of the town in 1922 was £646,315 10s. 10d., and the rates were 18s. (with differential rates for Reddish and Heaton Norris). A re-assessment has taken place since then and the present rateable value is £715,514—an increase of £69,199—and the rates are 12s. 6d. In all departments of the municipality great strides have been made. Last year was seen the culmination of important works of development in two of the major undertakings of the Corporation, the Electricity and Gas Departments. Already this year we have witnessed the inauguration of the £550,000 Goyt Valley reservoir scheme, which is to provide work for some hundreds of men over a period of five years and increase the Corporation's daily water supply by 4,000,000 gallons. The Tramways Department has responded to the demand for quicker and more extensive road passenger services, and established a net work of 'bus routes which covers the whole town. Corporation housing estates have sprung up at Adswold, Heaton Norris and North and South Reddish, to meet the needs of a growing population. The functions of the old Board of Guardians have been taken over by the Town Council under the 1929 Local Government Act. The amenities of the town in respect of parks and open spaces and the demolition of unsightly buildings have been greatly improved. New parks and recreation grounds have been opened at North Reddish, Davenport, Manchester Road and Didsbury Road, and advantage has been taken of the Unemployment Grants Scheme to effect improvements in the existing parks. Similarly the streets of the town have been thoroughly overhauled, and there is afoot a plan for the covering of the River Mersey in Mersey Square which will greatly improve that part of the town. A more ambitious scheme for the covering in of the whole of the river between the Mersey and Lancashire Bridges to relieve the traffic congestion through Prince's Street, Great Underbank and Chestergate, has to wait for more propitious times before it can be undertaken. Several new buildings have added grace and dignity to the streets of the town—notably the beautiful War Memorial and Art Gallery, the new Gas Show Rooms, and Prudential Buildings in St. Peter's Square.

Politically also the decade has produced changes. As elsewhere in the country the tendency has been for the ousting of the Liberal party by the Socialists. The Liberal party in Stockport has declined in influence and numbers, both in the Town Council and Parliamentary representation, and whilst the Conservatives are still the predominant party—as witness their two Members of Parliament and their continued control of the Town Council—and are as firmly entrenched in the confidence and esteem of the electors as they were ten years ago, the Labour party has emerged into the local political arena as a challenging and well-disciplined force.

These are some of the changes which the last ten years have produced in Stockport. They are considerable changes, which bespeak a rapidity of growth and development unparalleled in the history of the town.