

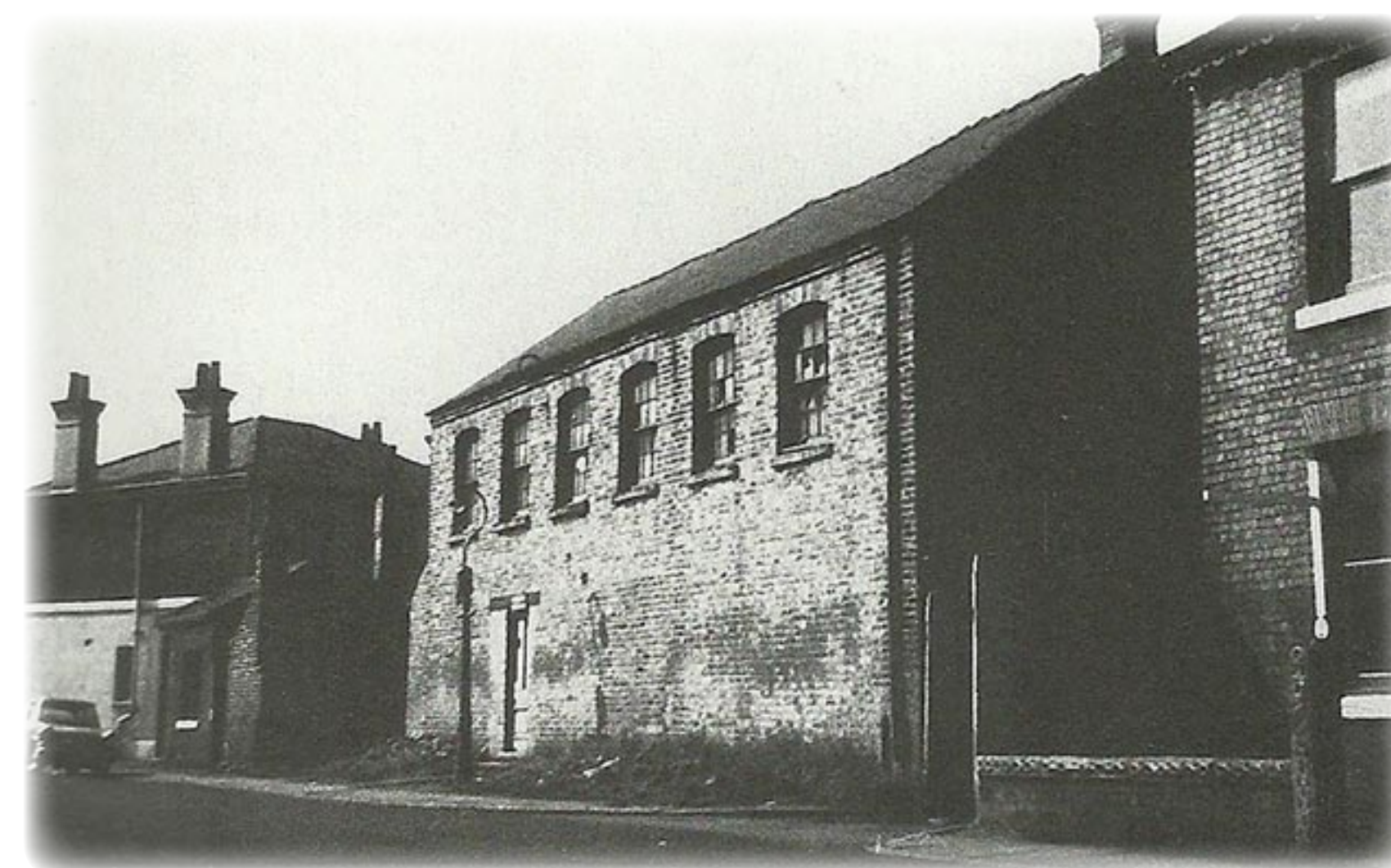
# LOCAL INDUSTRIES

The construction of the Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC) Railway line and the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC) provided greater infrastructure and was the catalyst to a huge influx of industry to Irlam and Cadishead during the 1800s and 1900s.

This board provides a summary of just a few of the local industries that were smaller in size than the Steelworks, Soap Works and Margarine Works (see separate boards) but which still had a big impact on the area.

## FUSTIAN CUTTING

Originally a cottage industry, Fustian Cutting, a process in the manufacture of velvets and corduroy, later shifted into new terraced houses with a cutting shop built on the end. In 1856 Cadishead had 10 cutting shops and by 1869 the total in the village had risen to 34.



During the 1870s it was almost impossible to find a house without a cutting frame or a family unconnected with cutting, but a decade later the industry suffered a slump causing serious unemployment and by early 1887 Fustian Cutting was almost at a standstill. Hand-cutting was doomed by the introduction of machinery; a hand cutter could process about 16yds a day, the machine 150yds. Fustian Cutting, however, continued to survive on a very small scale until the 1920s. Some cutting shops were converted into terraced houses and are still standing in Cadishead and Higher Irlam.

## MILLINGTON AND SHELDRIKS ROPE WORKS

One of the first factories to be built in the area in 1886, the Rope Works transformed the district from a purely rural area. Situated on the site now occupied by Irlam Post Office, the factory was purpose built for manufacturing ropes, twine and cordage of all kinds. The works closed down in December 1934.

## ROYLES LTD

Founded as a family engineering business in Manchester in 1874 a new works was built in Irlam in 1900 and included iron and brass foundries.



At one time it was one of the most progressive engineering firms in the country, being one of the largest manufacturers of special appliances such as heat exchange equipment for laundries, hospitals and schools. The factory was demolished in the early 1980s.



## HULME PATENT ADVERTISING MATCH COMPANY

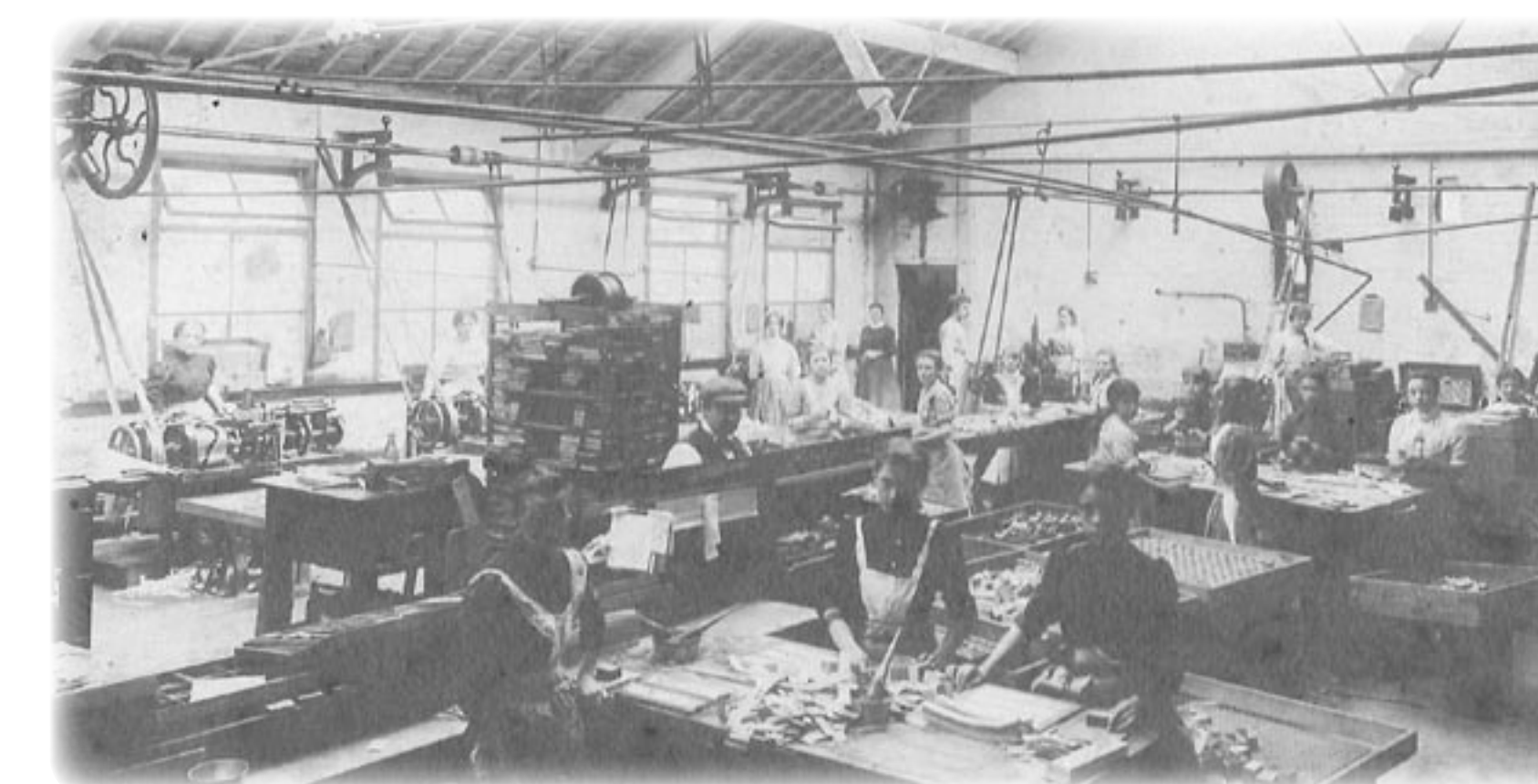
Situated close to Irlam Station and with its own private railway siding, the works came into production in 1904 and soon held its own against all foreign competition due to the adoption of a system of match-making that was non-poisonous. Twelve years later they introduced another new industry to Irlam, chip fruit package (basket) making or known in the fruit trade as 'Non-Returnables.' Having amalgamated in 1928 the



match-making and basket making operations took place on the same premises under the name of The British Basket and Besto Company Ltd, better known as 'Besto'.

## THE BRITISH BASKET AND BESTO COMPANY LTD (BESTO)

The chief product manufactured by Besto was the 12-lb 'chip' baskets which were assembled largely by hand and stitched to shape with the revolving handles fitted by means of rivets. In the mid-1960s difficulties arose in obtaining suitable girls or women to work in the factory, which required approximately 65 members of staff to operate efficiently. Having declined to staff levels of less



than 45 the management decided to close the works in 1965.

## KINDER McDOUGALL AND COMPANY

Built in 1905-1906 on Dean Road, Cadishead the wallpaper manufacturer had direct access to the railways and main Manchester to Liverpool Road. Production commenced in 1907 but the factory soon became inadequate due to increased demand for their wallpaper and an extension was completed in 1910.



By 1941 the supply of paper had dried up and, due to the war, there was no more available for wallpaper making as this was classed as a luxury. The factory was

# 1800s-1900s

turned over to war equipment, including parts for tanks. In 1945 supply of paper began to re-appear and by 1950 the works was once again in full production. With the rationalisation of wallpaper manufacturers in 1952 the printing of the paper was transferred to Pendleton and the Cadishead works was turned over to the making of the colours for all the paper trade. It became known as Irlam Inks.

## TAR DISTILLERS

In the 1900s the chemical industry came to Cadishead, firstly with British Tar Products followed by North Western Tar Distillers later known as Lancashire Tar Distillers. The latter is still in operation today, at the same site, trading as CSG Lanstar specialising in waste management and recycling.

More images of this and other local industries can be seen in the Station House, along with artefacts and artwork reflecting the district's heritage.

Acknowledgements: Irlam and Cadishead Local History Society

For further information about the history of Irlam and Cadishead visit: [www.irlamandcadishead.net](http://www.irlamandcadishead.net)