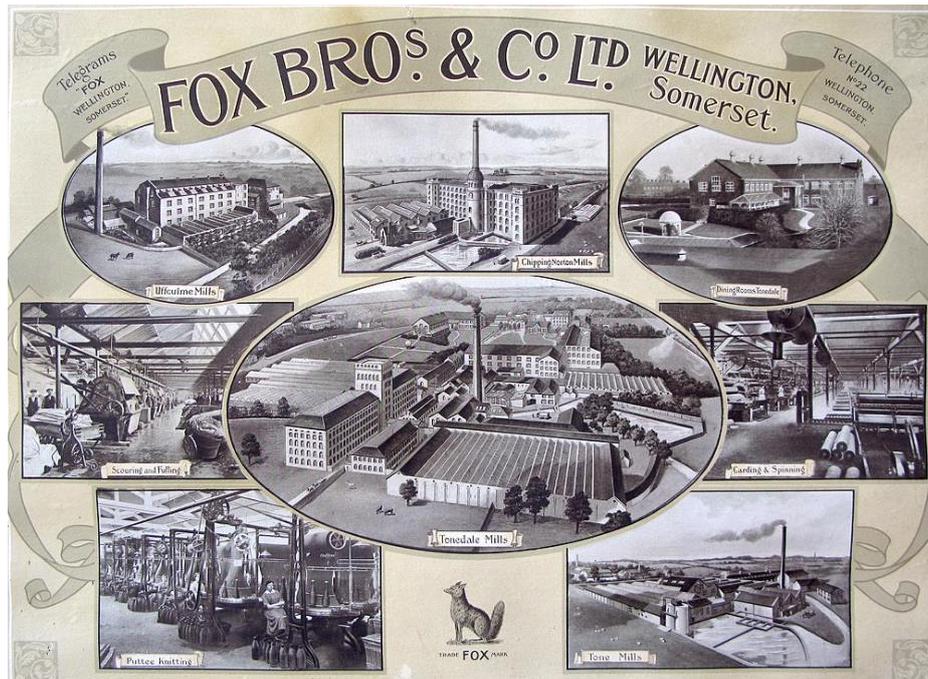


Shared reading Who were the Wellington Weavers Part 2



The company employed about 5,000 people in Wellington and at their other factories such as Coldharbour Mill at Uffculme. By 1919 Fox Brothers' turnover hit £1.5 million!

Many generations of the same family and many employees spent their entire working lives with Fox Brothers. Young employees were trained as apprentices, whilst a large maintenance department ensured the smooth running of the machinery.

During the Industrial Revolution, the Grand Western Canal was built in Wellington in 1835, followed by the Bristol and Exeter Railway in 1843 which allowed Fox's cloth to be transported more easily.

Fox Brothers, who had produced scarlet serge for the British Army, then started making khaki dye in 1900. During the First World War, 8,000 miles of khaki cloth were produced for Army clothing alongside 70,000 pairs of Puttees per week.

Fox Brothers has made cloth for the suits of several famous people including Winston Churchill, the Prince of Wales and for the Duke of Windsor!

Since the main factory closed down, due to the availability of cheaper materials from abroad, the business still continues in a smaller building in Tonedale.

The company currently employs twenty five people. In 2011, Fox appointed two full-time apprentices to ensure traditional skills are handed down to a new generation.

In October 2011, Fox Brothers and a network of British manufacturers created 'The Merchant Fox', a website selling British-made luxury goods. The company still supplies clothing and cloth to fashion designers all around the world using looms which are over 50 years old. It is thought of as one of the most important textile companies in Britain.

Retrieval:

- a. Find and copy two transport links which would have enabled the factory to move their products around Britain more easily.
- b. What is the name of the company's website?

Vocabulary:

- c. The company create khaki dye for Army uniforms. How would you describe khaki?
- d. Fox's are still ensuring the 'traditional skills' are being passed down to the next generation. What ARE traditional skills? Can you think of other traditional skills which exist today?

Inference:

- e. What are the positives and negatives of a cheap clothing company like Primark, compared to the clothing made in a factory like Fox's? (class discussion)

Traditional



Something that has been done, made or created in the same way for many years

Customs, beliefs, methods

