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The Duke's Visit

Local - North.

13th May 1955

Manchester: The Duke of Edinburgh was welcomed by Lord Derby, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, and the Lord Mayor - when he arrived at Northenden Station - on his way to Heald Green.

The Duke had come to open the new headquarters of the British Rayon Research Association - and he later made a tour of the huge laboratory. In the various departments, the assistants explained the complicated processes by which finished material is tested for strength....and the endless research that is being carried out to improve the wearing qualities of man-made fabrics.

In another section, the Duke saw a machine that can make 250 different tests of a sample of yarn. Then, later, he caused great amusement when he said: "I hope this place does all it is supposed to do".

After lunching with Lord and Lady Derby, Prince Philip drove to Liverpool University - to open a new block (dedicated to inorganic and physical chemistry) by unveiling a commemorative tablet...

~~Building cost £530,000~~

The new wing has cost £530,000 to build - and the Duke spent an hour touring the five teaching and twenty-three research laboratories - before piloting his own plane back to London.