

# Workers lose jobs as firm moves out

MORE than 40 workers will be made redundant during the next month when a company leaves Maidenhead for new factory premises in Cornwall.

Optical Measuring Tools Ltd. of Bridge Road, Maidenhead, have been running down their operations in the town over the past two years.

Apart from a small number of employees who will remain behind to complete the running down operation the rest of the work force will have left by the end of the month.

But there is little likelihood of their being out of work for long. A company spokesman said that many of them already had jobs to go to and a spokesman for the local office for the Department of Employment and Productivity said he had hopes that placing them would not be difficult.

Most of the 49 leaving are skilled workers including grinders, fitters, instrument fitters and centre lathe turners.

A spokesman for the firm said there were two basic reasons for the move to Cornwall. "Firstly we cannot get the labour we require and secondly we cannot expand," he said. "We have been restricted in our expansion plans and even if we were prepared to pull down our present premises we would not be allowed to rebuild to gain more square footage."

The company has been manufacturing engineers' measuring instruments in the Thames Valley for 30 years. They started on Slough Trading Estate in 1940 and eventually began to absorb a Maidenhead firm until they moved to their present site in 1952.