

CHESTER TIMES – January 9, 1903

SPINDLES MAY HUM AND LOOMS RUN IN CHESTER CREEK VALLEY – Prospects Bright for a Return of Industrial Prosperity to the Towns of Rockdale, Lenni and Aston Mills, Once Very Busy Places – The Carson and Rhodes Factories to Run

The prospects are bright for a return of the industrial prosperity which the people of Lenni, Rockdale and Aston Mills enjoyed interruptedly for many years. For several years past in fact since the incumbency of the Cleveland administration, there has been an uncertainty about the running of the mills along Chester Creek at the points named. This brought to the hearts of the working people unrest and worryment to a degree that many of them have left the places where they enjoyed their boyhood days to seek new fields of labor.

Within a few years there was no more contented and happier lot of people on the face of God's earth than those of the hamlet of Rockdale, Lenni, Aston Mills and other places up Chester Creek. The stoppage of the mills came and many still remained, loath to leave old associations, with the hope that at some future time they would be rewarded with steady work.

By the statement made by a leading manufacturer yesterday to a Times man, these same people may be rewarded in a manner for which they hoped for the past four or five years.

THE CARSON MILLS – It was given out on good authority yesterday that William Carson & Company are ready to pay their creditors the amounts agreed upon between the creditors and the mill owners, and that the mills will shortly be started on full time. There are a few preliminaries to be arranged and it is not improbable that the parties will get together today and agree on a final settlement.

Samuel Rhodes, who was a member of the firm of Carson & Company, and who secured an interest in the upholstery mill at Rockdale, shortly after the Carson mill shut down, has sold his interest and will join his former partners in the conduct of the mill just as soon as all matters are adjusted.

The mill conducted by Carson & Company is known as the Paramount Mills to many in Delaware County, and when running gives employment to about 200 persons. These people have been idle for a period of about one year, and the good news that work is to be resumed comes as a gift from above.

THE RHODES MILLS – The disposition of the creditors to preserve the property of the Rhodes Brothers at Aston Mills, gives great hopes to the 700 idle persons about that place and encouragement for an early resumption of work. This hope has been greatly strengthened by the fact that the creditors at a meeting in Philadelphia on Wednesday practically agreed that receivers should be appointed and the mills started up. This will avoid long litigation and a long stoppage of this splendid plant. It will prevent the affairs of the Rhodes Brothers from passing into bankruptcy which might or might not cause the mills to shut down indefinitely.

Acting upon the suggestion of the creditors which was mentioned in yesterday's Times, Frank B. Rhodes, Esq., counsel for the Rhodes Brothers, had Judge Johnson this morning appoint Frederick Turnbull, George A. Hoffman and James Thompson, all creditors of Philadelphia receivers. While these gentlemen will have direct supervision of the running affairs of the mills, John B. Rhodes the well-known manufacturer, and his son will be the active spirits in the conduct of the affairs, as heretofore.

The receivers filed their bond this morning, qualifying for \$60,000.

It is said on good authority that the Rhodes Brothers have plenty of orders, and all that is necessary to bring back the great prosperity formerly enjoyed by this plant is a little capital, which will be furnished. The increased cost of fuel and the increase in several other commodities which enter into the conduct of the business caused the present temporary shutdown.

Keith Lockhart Collection