

CHESTER TIMES – June 9, 1916 – VISCOSE CO.'S NEW PLANT – Reported Large Industrial Enterprise of Marcus Hook Concern in the South

Persistent reports of late that the Viscose Company, one of the largest industries of the county, with a mammoth plant at Marcus Hook employing upwards of 2500 persons will shortly increase the number of buildings, seemed materialized this morning in a dispatch from Roanoke, Virginia. This report states that a manufactory will be erected, consisting of buildings off three and five stories, and basement, with brick, stone and concrete material.

Dr. C. A. Ernst, general manager of the Viscose Company was absent from his office this morning, and no other official could be found to talk of the matter.

The bids are due on June 21, and one of the estimators is William Provost, Jr., of this city, who erected the Marcus Hook plant. Mr. Provost has been down at Roanoke, inspecting the site for the plant and because of his experience in erecting large manufactories in and about Chester and also the Marcus Hook plant of the Viscose Company, he has a deep insight into the particular needs of the company for a modern plant. Ballinger and Perot are the architects.

Several weeks ago a statement of a travelling salesman at a Philadelphia meeting credited the company with the intention of doubling their plant at Marcus Hook. Publication of this brought an emphatic denial from Dr. Ernst, who supplemented his denial with the declaration that the present number of buildings entirely sufficed for the needs of the plant for some time to come. However, no mention was made of starting a plant elsewhere, and the Roanoke dispatch to all appearances confirms the belief the plant is bent on enlarging.

Whether the Virginia manufactory will run as a separate issue from the Marcus Hook organization or as an auxiliary is not known. In the absence of any official statements from Dr. Ernst, considerable conjecture exists as to the significance of the new plant, but it is believed the new move of the company will not in the least curtail the activities of the local industry.

No mention is made in the report of the product to be turned out, but it is presumed artificial silk will be manufactured. The buildings will from description, be modeled along the artistic and thoroughly modern structures at Marcus Hook, which form one of the most modest plants in the State.