

CHESTER TIMES – May 3, 1906

GRUSON IRON WORKS PURCHASED FOR BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE
FOUNDRIES – Big Industrial Plant and Nearly Two Hundred Acres of Land at Eddystone
Change Hands and Work Will Be Started in a Few Days for Operation of Works,
Employing Several Hundred Men – Good News Will Bring Joy to Hearts of Many
Workmen

The leasing and possible purchase of the Gruson Iron Works located along the Delaware River at Eddystone by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, means a great deal to the city of Chester and its environs. It means the supplying of labor for some of the sons of toil in Delaware Count, if possible dwelling places can be found to accommodate them, and this may prove an incentive to investors to erect additional houses in Eddystone and Chester.

The consummation of the deal of the plant, which has been idle for several years, is in accordance with the forecast made by the Times several weeks ago, and when the final visit was made by S.M. Vauclain, representing the locomotive company, and it was decided to lease, it was the first step toward the erection, it is believed of a large number of additional structures on the tract. The company will use all of the available ground, which includes 183 acres of land.

The first intimation that the deal had been closed was given the Times yesterday afternoon direct from the office of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, in a message over the telephone, when the company seemed as pleased over the result as anyone, but when the Times called the office this morning for further information, those in charge seemed inclined to say little. "There is talk of a lease," said the representative, "but we would rather not have anything said about the matter at this time." Asked if it were possible to make castings next week, as reported would be done, the answer came that it was not thought probable.

It is understood, however, that the company proposes to put a large force of men to clean up the machinery and get it in working order at once. Supplies of material will be forthcoming, and the concern will push matters. The Baldwin people, who are now busier than ever at the Philadelphia plant, are very much congested in all departments, and are unable to spread out in the neighborhood of their enormous works as all the available ground has been taken.

The Gruson plant was started about the year 1900 by a syndicate, which purchased what was known as the Patterson farm, which lies between the Chester Pike, the Delaware River, Crum Creek and the Denis property. Thomas Prosser & Son of New York City, were the chief stockholders and after an attempt to make impregnable turrets of the Krupp pattern for the government, the plant suspended after a short time. It was sold at auction, the property being bought in by Mr. Prosser, who held it until the Baldwin people negotiated therefore.

The foundry and all the auxiliary buildings, including the office, are substantially built and thoroughly equipped for the purposes for which it is secured by the Philadelphia concern. The sidings are run in from the Pennsylvania Railroad, and there are excellent facilities for shipping.

It was rumored in this city this morning that William Burns, assistant superintended of the Penn steel Works, would be in charge of the new plant.