

CHESTER TIMES – July 3, 1915 – CHESTER SURE WILL EXPAND – Outside Merchants Here This Week Looking Over Situation for Future Business

What outside people think of the great number of workmen to be given employment in the borough of Eddystone by the Remington Arms Company and the Baldwin Locomotive Works, is indicated by the large number of inquiries that are being made in this city as to valuable land for building purposes and what the facilities are in regard to buildings for doing business. At least four well-known merchants of the city of Philadelphia, who do business in this city, were here this week, looking for sites to open branch stores, but found but few available buildings for their businesses. In addition to this many real estate men and financiers have looked over the situation in regard to the need for new homes to house the workmen coming to the big industry on the east of the city, and the prospects are bright for outside capital coming to the relief of the situation. The builders of this city say that money is hard to secure at home for building enterprises of the magnitude that it will require to accommodate the promised increase population for this city. In addition to the 23,000 men who will be given employment at the Baldwin plant, there will be the twelve to fifteen hundred men who will be employed in the new shipyard to care for and their families, beside other workmen with their families who will return to Chester, who left when a revision of the tariff, on the part of the Democratic party closed the industries here to hundreds of our best mechanics. These men have been writing to friends and others asking about conditions, indicating that they desire to come back to their home town when work gets plentiful.

Already land values in some sections are advancing, due to the coming of the Remington Arms people and the many orders secured by the Baldwin people. There has been a quiet hunt for available building sites for several weeks and some land was secured at prices that prevailed for two or three years past, but today much land that can be used for erecting new houses has jumped fifty percent in price.

One of the busiest spots in the county at the present time is Springfield, the new suburb laid out by the Springfield Real Estate Company. Several hundred men are at work on this development and building work, is going along merrily. This suburb will be unique in several particulars. Purchasers of homes of sites there will find the suburb continuing all of the conveniences of the city. Gas, electric light, Springfield water, well paved and lighted streets and sewers are in themselves enough to take this out of the usual class, but another feature is the fact that the suburb is laid out with serpentine rather than straight streets. Winding streets are conducive to beautiful grounds and will assist in making attractive the homes which are being erected and which will go up in the future. The company is spending close to \$130,500 in improving the plot, which consists of about 500 acres.

Quite a number of smaller real estate developments have been made public during the week. Miss Anne Vauclain is making important changes to her recently acquired properties in Newtown Township, near Newtown Square. Both of the big stone barns are to be enlarged and altered the contracts having been let to Jacob Myers Sons Company. The barn on the old Agnew property is to be enlarged at an expense of \$12,000, this being the contract price, while the barn on the Grimm farm will be enlarged at a price of \$5979.

The Upper Darby school District, through its solicitor, Howard M. Lutz, has within the last couple of days sold its entire issue four and one-half per cent, bonds for the erection of a new school building to P. S. Briggs & Co. of Philadelphia. The issue was of \$61,000, and the price paid was \$62,250, or a trifle-less than 103.7 per cent.

A building agreement has been filed at Media between the First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne, and Wilbert Beaumont of Atlantic City for the erection of a church building at Lansdowne and Greenwood Avenues, Lansdowne. The contract price, as shown by the agreement is \$31,558. Druckenmiller and Williams are the architects.

Claude A. Simpler of Lansdowne has let a contract to Milton S. Grawl of Llanerch, for the erection of a tile and stucco two and one-half story house to be erected on Wayne Avenue, Lansdowne. The price \$5300.

Bids will be opened July 15 for a borough hall and fire house for Millbourne Borough. The bids are being received by FF. D. Edmunds, architect, in whose hands are the plans and specifications. The building will cost, it is estimated, about \$6000.

Benjamin T. Levis, a Media real estate dealer, reports the sale of the Elizabeth Shoemaker farm of twenty-two acres in Marple Township to Joseph Lownes of Springfield Township, who will take possession in the spring. He also reports the sale of two lots at Twenty-Second and Madison Streets, this city, to Howard S. Harrison of this city.

DARBY IMPROVEMENTS – Plans are out for the erection of sixty two-story brick houses to be erected in the borough of Darby. For the present the owner's name is withheld, but bids will be asked in a few days, it is said, for this large operation. The houses are to be built of brick, slag roofs and hot air heating.

According to the Builders' Guide of today, plans are out for twenty additional houses to be erected in this city. The name of the owner is withheld for the present. These houses are to be two stories high and contain all improvements.

The borough of Media has received bids for the construction of a 2,000,000 gallon basin and filter beds at the water works in that borough

Plans are being prepared by a Philadelphia architect for a \$40,000 home for Chester Lodge No. 236, F. & A. M. of this city. According to the plans, the new home of this well-known organization will be three stories high and will be constructed on the present lodge property at Fourth and Market Streets. The building, if the plans are finally selected and the lodge decides to build, and will be constructed of brick and terra cotta and will have a dimension of 40 by 114 feet.

Work is rapidly progressing on the Oglesby Bakery at Broad and Crosby Streets. The carpenters are finishing up the second floor and the painters are working on the exterior. The carpenters will be ready to start on the first floor finishing work the early part of the week and the building will again be ready for occupancy by the latter part of the month.

The bricklayers will finish their work on the Gallagher garage the early part of next week should the weather be favorable. The carpenters are making preparations to sheath in the roof as soon as the scaffolding belonging to the bricklayers is removed. The addition to the garage is a decided improvement and will allow much added floor space.

Contractor William Ward has about completed the frame and corrugated iron garage in the rear of 1730 Edgmont Avenue.

PERMITS GRANTED – The following permits were issued by Building Inspector Terry T. Williams during the week just passing:

C. I. Feterico, one story front in building at 738 West Front Street

J. Irvin Taylor, two 2-story dwellings on north side of Butler Street between Tenth and Eleventh streets

N. T. Kerr, one story frame building covered with corrugated iron in rear of building at Nineteenth and Chestnut streets

William Hewes, three two-story brick dwellings on Hewes Avenue, between Highland Avenue and Harwick Streets

Lewis Thomas, one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron in rear of 321 Kerlin Street

William Plew, four two-story brick dwellings on Ward Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets

These real estate transfers were recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds yesterday:

Springfield Township – The Springfield Township – The Springfield Real Estate Company to Adrian P. Arcker of Philadelphia, two lots on Avenue “C.” \$2000

Chester – Martha T. Martin of Chicago, Ill. to Robert F. Graham of Chester, lot on Ninth Street, west of Barclay, \$1000

Chester – Peter J. Nolan of Crum Lynne to James F. Gallagher of Chester, lot at Nineteenth and Hyatt Streets, \$500