December 23, 1910– Chester Times

WHEELS OF INDUSTRY HUM AT OPENING OF LARGE PLANT

Works of the American Viscose Company One of the Biggest in the State, Put in Operation Yesterday

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT

One of the biggest concerns of any kind in the State and said to be the only concern of its sort in the country, and one which recently has been giving much work to Chesterites, thus proving a boom in a slack season, is the American Viscose Company, located within three or four miles of Chester, and which in the last few months has practically grown up in our midst.

In spite of the fact that it is a very extensive plant, neither its presence nor its mission, both of which are important factors in the industrial growth of Chester, seem to be known generally throughout the city.

FIRST PRODUCT YESTERDAY

Yesterday the first complete product of the plant was turned out and no better opportunity could be afforded than now for presenting to the public in general some idea of the building and its processes which have come, so to speak, as a God=send in the general depressed business conditions of this winter.

The firm is under the management of men who have really made a life study of the artificial silk business, the majority of them being Englishmen or men who have spent a considerable part of their lives studying the business on the other side of the ocean.

The officers or employers who have headquarters in the local offices at Marcus Hook, whose names would be of most direct interest to the people of this community are: Treasurer, F. S. Younghustand; manager, G, H, Grant; chief engineer, James Clayton; chief chemist, C. A. Ernst; chief foreman, John Keegan.

WELL EQUIPPED PLANT

The building, which is built of fireproof material, entirely, is five stories high and covers an immense area. It is mostly concrete construction and is ventilated, lighted, heated and equipped in the most modern manner, On the first floor are the offices, modern in every respect, which extend for over a square along a fine concrete corridor.

Besides these, on the lower floor, are the various conveniences for the employees, the large and modernly-equipped lunch room, divided into separate parts for the male and female workers, being the most attractive feature of this department.

Here the men and women can buy their lunch, served by men employed for that purpose by the company, at the exact cost price paid by the company, even though, as expected, it is carried on at a loss to the latter. Various engines and machinery are also located on the lower floor.

The second floor, which is illuminated by the brightest arc lights, scattered in every department, contains the twisting, winding and doubling machines, and will be the headquarters of a hundred and fifty or two hundred men when the plant is put into full operation, which will not be for six or seven months yet, the plan being to increase the output of the plant gradually. The third floor is practically the same as the second and contains, as

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