

CHESTER TIMES – July 22, 1912

TO BUILD 300 HOUSES IN MARCUS HOOK – American Viscose Co. Will Also Double Capacity of Plant – Work to Begin At Once

Dr. C.A. Ernst, the manager of the Marcus Hook plant of the American Viscose Company, announced this morning that the plans for a new addition to their present plant which would double its capacity and three hundred dwellings had been completed. The improvements, including buildings and machinery, will cost approximately \$1,000,000.

Ballinger and Perrott, architects, of Philadelphia have completed the plans. James Clayton, a constructing engineer of England, who is connected with the English and parent branch of the American Viscose company, has arrived here and will personally oversee the work. The houses will be commenced in the near future and the mill addition, which will cost about \$100,000 will be started immediately.

The plant now employs more than 1,000 people in the manufacture of artificial silk. When the improvements to the mills are completed it will require a force of two thousand persons. The 300 dwellings are designed to help to care for the increased number of employees.

William Provost, Jr., a Chester contractor, recently finished a \$10,000 addition to this plant. The building, which is known as a "mercerizing cellar" is a one-story structure, eighty feet by thirty-five feet, of reinforced concrete, with ailag roof and electric lighted throughout.

Now that the plans for the \$100,000 building have been completed by the architect, bids will be asked and the work of building commenced as soon as possible. The dwelling houses will be located between the plant and Marcus Hook proper and will be erected upon the tract purchased some time ago by the company for this purpose.

The \$100,000 annex to the main factory will be a duplicate of the present one story portion or wing of the Marcus Hook works. It will be four hundred feet long by one hundred and twenty feet wide, and one story in height. The building will be of brick mill construction and will be fireproof. In this building will be included the spinning, washing, twisting, and reeling departments.

The equipping of the second and larger building will be a much more expensive proposition for the American Company to handle than the mere erection of the building. About one hundred and twenty machines will be installed in the new building when it is completed. The approximate cost of the machinery was placed at \$400,000 by Dr. C.A. Ernst, the general manager of the American Viscose Company when seen at his office. This machinery will be mainly for the handling of the spinning, twisting and reeling work.

The power to operate this new mill will be electric and will be furnished by the Beacon Light Company, of this city. The Beacon Company is furnishing the American Company with all of its operative power at this time.

With the completion of the enlargement of the works now under way the company will furnish employment for one thousand additional workmen. Approximately one thousand people are now in the employ of the company. This means the doubling of the capacity of the Marcus Hook plant within the next year.

The company is solicitous of the health and the welfare of its employees. A dispensary is connected with the plant and a trained nurse, a graduate of the Chester Hospital, is in constant attendance. While most of the accidents at this plant are of a minor

nature, all those who suffer from lacerations, contusions, abrasions, acid burns, etc., are given immediate attention.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION