

CHESTER TIMES – June 9, 1916 – WORK BEGINS ON NEW SHIPYARD – Scenes of Merry Activity at the Plant of the Sun Shipbuilding Company in This City

Preliminary work has been started on the Sun Shipbuilding Company plant at the foot of Morton Avenue, and it is expected that with the progress made by the construction gang, the pouring of concrete for the shipways may commence today or tomorrow. Over 100 men have been busy at work transforming a swamp land into a hive of construction industry.

Sounds of hissing steam from the engines that drive the heavy pilings are drowned by the noise and echoing of the heavy drops coming in contact with the pilings that are being sunk deep into the ground for the foundations of the structures that will form units of the largest shipyard in this section.

Twelve cars, loaded with materials to be used in construction work, tons of structural iron work, thousands of railroad ties, several branches of tracks, piles of lumber, pile drivers and large hoists and hurrying workmen describe the scene.

The Raymond Concrete Pile Company of New York, has ninety men at work. They have four pile driving machines in operation, three of these are driving piles for foundation work and a fourth is engaged along the river front. A switching engine to be used to haul material to and from the machines was unloaded and will be placed in operation today.

George Bacot is in charge of the operations for the Raymond Concrete Pile Company. With several other assistants, he is housed in a temporary frame office building on the site. This concern has the contract for the erection of the foundations and shipbuilding ways. Ninety-five car loads of material have been unloaded since operations were started a few weeks ago.

Within the course of a week, it is expected that the force of workmen will be increased from one hundred to nearly one hundred to nearly two hundred men. Mr. Bacot said yesterday that in all probability the preliminary work of laying the foundations for the five shipways would be started today or tomorrow.

A huge derrick has been erected for the purpose of unloading the structural iron, which is being furnished by the Belmont Iron Construction Company of Eddystone. It was said that the work of erecting the structural work would be commenced the latter part of the month.

The railroad company has a score of laborers at work laying tracks and sidings.