

CHESTER TIMES – February 5, 1904

\$155,000 IS PAID FOR THE GRUSON WORKS – Eddystone Foundry and Machine Company Sold at a Trustee's Sale and Bought by Thomas Prosser & Sons, Who May Operate the Plant – Many Firms are Represented at Sale

The public sale of real and personal property of the Eddystone Foundry and Machine Company, known as the Gruson Works, took place yesterday afternoon on the premises in Eddystone, and brought together a number of leading firms and scrap iron dealers from Philadelphia and New York. The purchaser of the entire plant, including the land and equipment with the stock and material on hand, was Thomas Prosser & Sons of New York. When asked by a Times reporter what the future of the big concern along the Delaware River would be, Mr. Prosser said:

"I have no definite plans outlined as yet; indeed, I have not given it a thought."

The sale began at 2 o'clock and was finished in half an hour. It was cried by John D. Howard, the auctioneer of this city, who offered it in three lots as follows:

First, all the land, buildings, tools, machinery, equipment, fixtures, patterns, drawings and supplies.

Second, all the scrap consisting of old cast iron cannon, whole and broken, sand and chilled rolls, foundry and general scrap, consisting of 1409 $\frac{1}{4}$ gross tons.

Third, all the pig iron, embracing 11 $\frac{2}{3}$ gross tons.

THE PRICES PAID – Mr. Prosser started the bidding on the first division at \$100,000 and it crept steadily up by \$10,000's until it reached the sum of \$155,000, when it was knocked down to him. On the second lot the bidding was active, being started at \$2 per ton for the scrap and reaching \$12.00 before it was sold to Mr. Prosser. The pig iron was also sold to this firm for \$17.50 per ton.

The sale was made subject to the approval of the court, free and discharged from any and all liens and encumbrances, excepting the principal sum of a certain yearly ground rent of \$3712.50, amounting to \$82,500; any arrears of ground rent and any other valid liens that may be secured upon the property to attach the proceeds of the sale. The purchaser of the real estate and plant was required to pay \$5,000 in cash, at the sale, and the balance within 30 days.

Among the firms represented were: E.B. Leaf & Co., G.J. Newton & Co., McClure Sons, Charles Dreyfus & Co., Joseph Schmitt, John Nuttall, J.J. Moore, Pilling & Crane, E. Buxton & Sons, Worcester, Mass; Crane & Pitt, George Douglass, New York; William Wharton, Jr., & Co., Benjamin & Co., of the same city; J. Jones Hudson, F.R. Phillips & Sons.

The sale was in bankruptcy and by order of George E. Darlington, Esq., the referee, and David Townsend, trustee, who was present.

The purchaser, Mr. Prosser, was one of the leading stockholders and the heaviest creditor, in fact, the monied man of the concern. The impression prevails that he will operate the plant, which was established only a few years ago.

It was rumored this morning that the Baldwin Locomotive Works company are looking this way and that Mr. Prosser represented them in the purchase. Though it is known the Baldwin's desire to remove from Philadelphia, the rumor as to the Gruson cannot be verified.

William C. Ferguson and H.W. Moore, attorneys of Philadelphia, represented the trustee.

The following is a description of the property:

THE GRUSON PLANT – The property consists of 184 acres of land, bounded on the north by the Darby Pike, on the east by Crum Creek, on the south by the Delaware River, and on the west by other manufacturing plants. The west boundary is a straight line from the river to Darby Pike, and is a few feet less than one mile in length. The P.B. & W. railroad and the P.&R. railroad both cross the property, virtually dividing it into three parts. The north part consisting of about 25 acres lies between the P.B. & W. railroad and the Darby Pike, is at present used as a farm, having a substantial stone farm house, with barn, tool house, dairy, etc.

The middle portion of the property on which the plant stands, is completely drained by a sewer of ample capacity, with connections nearly 4,700 feet long, emptying into Crum Creek and the private trackage owned by the works is about 3,600 lineal feet.

A complete system of pipes distributes water from the mains of the Springfield Company to every part of the works, and a double outlet fire plug always under a heavy pressure is located just outside the fence at the office; thus providing ample fire protection.

The buildings are all constructed of steel and brick, and are substantial and practically fire proof, except the rooms. Each building is so constructed that additions can be made without sacrificing any of the present construction, and without interfering with any manufacturing operations.

The machine shop is 121 feet wide by 108 feet long, the center part being 57 feet wide by 30 feet from ground to underside of roof truss. This part is served by a 30-ton electric travelling crane of 55 feet span, built by Paulding & Harnischfeger.

The foundry is 121 feet wide by 198 feet long, the center part being 57 feet wide and 20 feet high to underside of roof truss. This part is served by one 30 ton and one 20 ton electric travelling crane of 55 feet span. There are three pneumatic post cranes of 3,000 pounds capacity serving the wings and core ovens.

The sand, coal and coke bins are of steel construction, two stories high and cover a space of 30 feet by 54 feet. The lower bin is used to store gas coal for the air furnaces and the upper bin, which is on a level with the cupola floor and connected to same by a bridge, is used for the storage of coke, all materials being unloaded from cars and distributed by electrical conveyors.

The power house is 42 feet wide by 92 feet long and is divided into an engine and boiler room by a fire proof brick partition. The boiler room is 9 feet below the engine room floor, into which the coal is lumped by means of inclined vaults, constructed under the main track. Adjoining the power house is a small brick building in which is located a Buffalo Blower Heating System, by which the works are heated by the exhaust steam from the engine.

The office building is built entirely of brick, 33 feet wide by 57 feet long. It is two stories high and has a cemented cellar containing a modern steam low pressure boiler, the heating being done direct by radiators in each room. The ground floor is occupied as offices and the second floor as a drawing room and restaurant. There is a brick fireproof stack on both floors fully equipped for the storage of papers and drawings. A fire stand pipe with hose attached to outlets is on each floor.

The material store house is 20 feet wide by 90 feet long; is fully fitted with bins, racks, etc., and has a solid cement floor. It also contains an office for the store keeper and a small testing laboratory, not as yet equipped.

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