

CHESTER TIMES – April 11, 1914 – NEW INDUSTRY FOR THIS CITY – The Light Railway Company is the Name of the Business Concern to be Started

That Chester is to have a new manufacturing plant came with the announcement of the Light Railway Equipment Company that they had secured the old Foundry Building at Fourth and Palmer Streets, and have already started making the necessary changes for the necessary machinery. The Light Railway Equipment Company will manufacture narrow gauge tracks for industrial and commercial railways, and all products necessary for the equipment of these concerns. Frogs, switches, turnouts, conveyors, trucks and all portable apparatus that can be used in connection with the narrow gauge railway; dump cars, scoop cars and cars electrically propelled will be made by the new company.

H. A. Ellis, a prominent steel manufacturer, is the president of the new concern. He has been engaged in this work and in the engineering and contracting operations, for twenty years. Mr. Ellis was connected with the company which did all of the excavation in and around the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

CHARTER APPLIED FOR – The charter is applied for by A. A. Ellis, Frank G. Sweeney, and Samuel D. Clyde, prominent business men of this city.

One of the interesting products of the Light Railway Equipment Company is a fortified steel car which can be used on a narrow gauge track. A number of these are now to use in Mexico and are used to protect the trains of soldiers being transported from city to city.

These narrow gauge railways are in considerable use in many commercial establishments throughout the country. Large western farms are now being equipped with tracks for the conveying of the products of the harvest fields, and during the corn husking season. The tracks can be laid on the ground without ballast can be easily moved from one to another section of a large ranch or farm

LOCAL BROKERS INTERESTED – Sweeney & Clyde, real estate and insurance brokers, have been the means of bringing this new industry to Chester. The local Board of Trade also deserves credit for the coming to Chester of the Light Railway Equipment Company.

Application for charter for the new company will be made by their solicitor, former District Attorney A. D. MacDade on May 4. The corporation is to be called the Light Railway Equipment Company by this charter, which will be applied for under the act of April 29, 1874, and its supplements.

AT THE COUNTY SEAT – The builders of the county seat are all busy at the present time, although much of the work they are engaged on at present is the completion of work started during the winter and jobbing work.

The big operations at present are the reconstruction of the Court House and the new school building. The work at the court house has progressed to the point where practically all of it is the slow, painstaking finish work, and in this particular job it is unusually slow. This work is the very finest kind in all the lines represented, the plastering being decorative, the painting being five-coat work, and the marble being all fitted work. The first of the furniture has arrived, this being the judges' bench. Much paneled work has been placed in position, and Court will be held in the building in June. It is not likely that there will be any sessions of Court there this term, however, as the last week of the present term is the week of May 4.

Nearly all of the exterior carving work has been completed, there remaining some little about the pilasters on the North and West walls, and the cutting of several words in the Latin inscription over the front entrance.

MEDIA'S NEW SCHOOL – James Flounders of Media, is the busiest contractor in the vicinity of the county seat. His biggest work is the new Media school house, upon which he has been working all winter and which, will be the pride of the boroughs. This work is being pushed as rapidly as the nature of it will permit. There is a big stretch of the stonewalls in place, one-half of the concrete work of the first floor has been completed, and everything is in readiness to complete this portion of the work within a couple of days. Carpenters are busy with tile raising of the frames for doors and in preparation for the partition work.

Rapid progress is also being made on the erection of the addition, to the Media Title and Trust Company's building on South Avenue. The new building is to be a one-story brick addition, and will

materially increase the banking space of the institution. The Trust company has been hampered by lack of room for some time, and it will be but a short time until they are in their new quarters. The brick walls are up almost to their full height, and the grill work for the windows and interior work is ready to be placed in position.

**LARGE OPERATIONS COMPLETED** – Mr. Flounders is completing the big Rowland house, costing \$12,000 at Holland's Bridge, just outside of Media. He has finished the Walter Furness home, the price for which was \$40,000, and which is one of the finest homes in the county near the Rose Tree. This house has been placed on the market because of the recent deaths of Mr. Furness and his wife, who died within a short time of each other.

He is building a house at Rydal, which is above Jenkintown, has completed one for Dr. Lingle, near Newtown Square, costing \$20,000, two houses for Simon Delbert, on his farm near Media, and is engaged in three building operations near Ambler, Pa.

J. W. Worrilow of Media, has received the contract for the erection of a library to the home of Dr. Edward Martin of Beatty's Hollow near the Springfield Water Works. The new portion of the house is planned to correspond with the other portions and work on it has already been started.

Mr. Worrilow has just completed a fine new home for Clark Thompson near the Rose Tree, and has also completed the new home and remodeled the two farm houses on the large farm purchased by him near West Chester. He will shortly begin work on the erection of a brick ice cream factory for Harry P. Engle, on the rear of the latter's property, at State and Orange Streets, Media.

Samuel Thomas of Media, is engaged in the erection of a house at the Black Horse, Middletown Township.

**NEW ICE CREAM FACTORY** – The building being constructed for the Penn Ice Cream Company at Fifth and Penn Streets, is rapidly nearing completion, and the works will be in operation in full time for the summer months. The building is terra cotta, and will be equipped with all modern machinery. This operation with the new houses being built by J. Irvin Taylor, on the north side, completely changes the appearance of that section.

The excavations have been completed for the Marker buildings on west Third Street below the bridge. The construction work will be started next week.

**EXCAVATING FOR WETHERILL HOUSE** – Contractor William Provost has a force of men at work excavating for the cellar to the house at Twenty-Second and Chestnut Streets, which will be erected for Robert Wetherill. The house when completed will be one of the most beautiful residences in this section of Delaware County. The house will be presented to one of Mr. Wetherill's daughters, who will be married the latter part of the year.

The improvements to the Morton House at Eighth Street and Morton Avenue, are about completed and greatly add to the attractiveness of the building. The work was done by John Trainor, who recently entered the contracting and building business.

Great headway is being made on the house at 604 East Eighth Street, which is undergoing extensive repairs both to the interior and the exterior... The work on the building is being done by Contractor Charles Harper of Crum Lynne, and will be completed in a few days.

A new back has been placed in the windows of the store of Charles Hoffer at 1141 Edgmont Avenue. This work allows the proprietor much more space in the windows in which to display goods.

A front porch is being added to the house at Eighth and Upland Streets, and will be completed sometime next week. The house is also undergoing repairs on the interior.

**FIFTH WARD IMPROVEMENTS** – Contractor William Ward is rapidly pushing the work on the building at Seventh and Potter Streets, which will be occupied by Thomas J. Welsh, the tobacconist of the Fifth Ward. The building will allow the proprietor a large amount of space, besides a pool parlor, he will conduct a café and light lunch counter.

Workmen at the Buckley plant have started to insulate the large beef boxes that were recently erected. The building when completed will be much more sanitary than ever before. The matter of insulating the boxes will require a large amount of time, owing to the tedious work involved. Several smaller buildings will be erected at the plant at a later date, which will be used for the storing of goods.

NEW STORE OPERATION – Samuel Lax yesterday broke ground for the erection of a two-story brick building, store front on East Seventh Street adjoining the store of Davey O'Connor. The building will be up to date in every respect and will be opened upon its completion as a first class restaurant BY John Corello. The building will be 65 feet deep, with a frontage of 35 feet.

Workmen employed by John Hanna Sons commenced to excavate for the cellar of the building at Sixth and New Market Streets for J. Irvin Taylor, who will erect a handsome business building for Nothnagle and Roser. The building will be up to date in every detail, and will improve the corner in many ways. The first floor will be devoted entirely to the business of Nothnagle and Roser, while the second story will be a flat. Work on the foundations will be commenced early next week.

PUTTING IN STORAGE PLANT – Robert Bossard, the ice cream and candy manufacturer of Market Street will soon have an up-to-date storage plant in his building. The plant will be placed in the rear of the new building and will be used solely for the purpose of freezing ice cream. A machine will also be installed which will under any conditions that may occur, turn out approximately 6000 quarts of ice cream daily, and will be driven solely by electricity. This has long been the intention of the proprietor of the store, but owing to the small amount of space he found that it was a necessity to have his building remodeled.

Contractor Amos Sheaff has been pushing the work on the new building which included a new brick front on the second and third stories. The partitions on these two floors have been taken out and the rooms will be used for the manufacturing of candies, and the storage of the same. The first floor will have a new store front, which when completed will be one of the most beautiful fronts in the city owing to its architectural beauty... A new fountain will be erected on the first floor as soon as the front is completed.

Nolan Brothers the local contractors are erecting a new front in the jewelry store of Carl A. Doubet, at Seventh Street and Edgmont Avenue. The building was formerly occupied by Jacob Pyewell, who for many years conducted a jewelry store. Huge iron beams were put in place this morning and the work will be pushed in order that it will be completed in the specified time.

AW force of carpenters and laborers are at work tearing out the interior of the three-story frame house at 1438 Edgmont Avenue. The house will be renovated throughout and will contain all modern conveniences. The building is one of the oldest in that section of the city, it having been built many years ago.

Contractor William Ward has commenced to erect another house at Twenty-First Street and Edgmont Avenue, and the stone masons will Bergin to do their portion of the work next week. The house will be similar to the houses adjoining it on either side, and will be of patent cement blocks. The finish will be of Mission style and when completed will make a vast improvement to the neighborhood owing to it being the last to be erected in the vacant lot at that place. The houses adjoining will be completed in a course of a few weeks, the carpenters are finishing the interior work.

The three-story house being built by Contractor D. Taylor on Twenty-First Street, south off Providence Avenue, is nearing completion, and will be ready for occupancy in a few days. The building is an improvement to the street at this point owing to beauty of the architecture. It is rumored that three similar houses will be erected by the same contractor in the course of a few weeks.

NEW STORE COMPLETED – The store recently erected at 1011 Edgmont Avenue is completed and will be occupied by William Kelly, the early part of next week. The building contains two rooms, the front one will be used as a showroom for plumbers' supplies and the room in the rear will be used for a storeroom and workshop.

Work will be started the early part of next week to excavate for the cellars of the three houses to be erected for Thomas Birch on Thirteenth Street, west of Crosby Street. The houses will be two story brick dwellings and will contain all modern conveniences.

Stonemasons will commence work the early part of next week on the house being built by Contractor William Provost, Jr. at Fourteenth and Potter Streets for Richard Wetherill. Stonemasons will finish the foundations sometime today, and the first story frames will be set when the stone cutters commence operations.

**EIGHTH WARD IMPROVEMENTS** – John Bradley is having a modern dwelling erected at Third and Pusey Streets, adjoining the Salmon property and Ex-Councilman Thomas Crowe's plot. The work was begun this week by George Hewes.

The roof has been set over the porch of the MacDonald property on West Third Street, near Parker, and the dwelling will be ready for occupancy in a short while. Two smaller houses in the rear are being pushed to rapid completion.

L. B. Salmons, of Third and Pusey Streets tore down part of the terrace on the west side of his house last week and built in two large windows for his workshop in the basement. The improvement adds considerable to the comfort of the shop.

Frank Dilks of Third and Parker Streets, had the front of his store renovated and painted.

George Hewes is building two houses on Howell Street below Third, for himself and George Bruner. These, when completed, will have roomy front porches, and an appreciative area in the rear for a backyard. The houses are of the peaked roof, two-story style. They are being built on what was formerly a vacant lot, used only for dumping, and will tone up the appearance of the street considerably.

The excavations for the eight dwellings on West Seventh Street near Pusey being built by Horace Jackson, have been completed and the construction work will be started on Monday. A considerable amount of grading had to be done along the rear of the site.

**SEVENTH WARD OPERATIONS** – Samuel Hewes will have a full force of workmen on the two houses at Seventh and Lincoln Streets next week and will push the work to an early completion. The plumbing has been set in place and the excavations finished.

The two large stores on Edgmont Avenue, below Third Street, are nearing completion, and the contractor, Samuel Lax, expects to turn them over to the owner in a week or so. The roof has been set in place, and the interior work nearly finished.

J. Irvin Taylor expects to complete his ten houses on Penn Street above Fifth, inside of a few weeks. Many requests have been made by prospective tenants, for the renting of the houses.

**WEST END OPERATIONS** – Former Burgess John R. Way of Marcus Hook, has secured the contract for laying the concrete paving around the four new houses recently constructed by J. Horace Witsil on Sixth Street, between Flower and Reaney Streets. Of the eight houses which Mr. Witsil has contracted to place at this location four are about completed. On Monday ground will be broken for two more. Foundations are being placed for two more of the row of eight dwellings.

The eight new houses at Third and Trainer Streets, which have just been completed by Contractor George Hewes, are ready for occupancy. The owner has already sold four of these houses for \$1600 each and has offers for the remainder. The buildings contain gas, hot and cold water, fixtures and other modern conveniences.

**TO BUILD NEW CHURCH** – The Building Committee of the Ridley Park Presbyterian Church is said to be conferring with an architect and it is reported that work on a new church building will soon be started. It is said that the cost of the new structure will aggregate forty thousand of fifty thousand dollars.