

November 18, 1899— CHESTER TIMES

NEW INDUSTRY TO BE ESTABLISHED AT EDDYSTONE — The Work of Preparing for the New Plant of the Gruson Iron Company Will Soon Be Started and Will Be Rapidly Pushed to Completion — Probably One Thousand Men Will Be Given Employment

The work of preparing the plans and other detail work for the new plant of the Gruson Iron Works, which is to occupy the fine stretch of river front just above the Eddystone Print Works is being pushed ahead and it will not be long before active operations are in progress on the ground, and within a few months from five hundred to one thousand men will be at work there regularly.

This will mean a great deal to the Eastern end of the city and to Eddystone borough, and as the employees will be largely skilled mechanics, the advent of the works here will mean the disbursement of a large sum in wages. The property is most advantageously situated with an excellent river front and direct connections with both the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia & Reading railroads.

A gentleman connected with the new corporation said yesterday to a Times man, that the site of Eddystone on the outskirts of the city of Chester was selected only after a great deal of time and a considerable sum of money had been expended in determining the most suitable location for such an important undertaking. The plant will be used for the construction of the "Gruson" chilled rotary turrets and other child armor construction for coast defense purposes and all machinery used in connection with armored fortifications. In addition the company will conduct a general foundry and machine business making a specialty of rolls and rolling mill work and air furnace castings of the largest size and special quality.

The cut which the Times is privileged to publish through the courtesy of one of the officers of the company, shows the construction of the "Gruson" Chilled Cast Iron Rotating Turret," which is one of the greatest appliances the work knows for coast defense. It presents only a small surface to the fire of the enemy, the works and operating machinery being entirely protected by the surrounding earth and the heavy armored caps.

A FORMIDABLE DEFENDER — In speaking of this specialty of the new company, the gentleman interviewed by the Times said

"When hostilities were declared in our recent war with Spain, it was discovered by the people at large and especially those reading in our sea coast cities that our preparations for a successful defense were far from complete. About fourteen years ago the so-called Endicott Board of Ordinance and Fortifications made a report and some recommendations on the subject of coast defense, the practical result of which was the construction by the Government of a number of 8-inch, 10-inch, and 12-inch disappearing gun batteries, only a few of which were in their designed positions when actual war was declared.

"In Europe and especially in Germany, Italy and Holland, the subject of an invulnerable protected armor for coast and harbor defense had been perfected and thoroughly tested. The proper design for such armor and the material used in making it were supplied by the great German firm of Friedrich Krupp Essenwerk, who have developed and own a monopoly of the processes and methods used to manufacture the material entering into the construction of what are known as "Gruson Turrets."

"It was only after prolonged negotiations between the Krupp concern in Germany and interested parties in this country that an agreement was reached by which coast-defense armor and similar items could be manufactured in this country."

INFULENTIAL OFFICIALS — The authorized capital of the Gruson Iron Company is \$2,000,000, and the officers of the company are P.M. Griffin, president; C.W. Barnum, vice president; A.E. Pierkowski, secretary, and T. Guilford Smith, treasurer. The grain office of the company is at 31 Nassau Street, New York and the Philadelphia office is at 1013 Betz Building.

The present capital, \$500,000, is fully paid in 100 cents on the dollar. There is only one kind of stock, and no stock is for sale. Later the capital of the company will be increased to \$2,000,000.

The directors of the company represent a great deal of capital and influence. They are: P.H. Griffin of P.H. Griffin Machine Works Buffalo, N.Y.; Thomas Presser, representative of Fried, Krupp for the United States, New York City; C.W. Barnum of Messrs. Barnum & Richardson, Lime Rock, Conn.; T. Guilford, Smith, vice president New York car Wheel Works, Buffalo, N.Y.; A.E. Pierkowski, Captain Imperial German Army, representative of Fried, Krupp Gursonwork, Magdeburg, Germany; Ernest Thalmann, Messrs. Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., the great bankers of New York City; David Townsend, Philadelphia; S. Singer of Messrs. Ward, Hayden & Satterlee, New York City. Mr. Satterlee is also counsel for the company. The Fried, Krupp Gursonwork of Magdeburg it is understood, holds a one-fifth interest in the company.

The designing and construction of the plant will be under the charge and supervision of David Townsend, consulting and mechanical engineer, whose address is at the Philadelphia office of the company.

A great deal of credit of bringing this great work to the vicinity of Chester belongs to Robert E. Ross, who has been in communication with Mr. Townsend and other officers of the company for many months. It will be remembered that some months ago there was talk of a big works locating on the tract of ground along the river front between the Keystone Plaster Company's property and the Chester Pipe and Tube Works. This property was favorably considered by the company but was finally abandoned because it was too small for the expansion of the works to the ultimate designs of the projectors. The Eddystone site was then visited with the result that after the matter was thoroughly investigated this location was selected.

The Simpson heirs, under the lead of Lincoln Godfrey, made every concession to the new company and their terms were eminently satisfactory to the Gruson people. The large and valuable tract was sold to the new industry at a fair price and on liberal terms, the disposition of the Simpson heirs being in strange contradiction with the actions of some of the property owners in Chester, who have driven great industries away from this city by their unaccommodating selfishness.

Mr. Ross was greatly aided in the part of the work by Adam C. Harper, who, through his knowledge of the steel and iron business, was a valuable advisor for the parties interested. Mr. Harper, who travels a great deal in his capacity of salesman for the Penn Steel Casting and Machine Company, never loses an opportunity to say a good word for Chester and it will not be surprising if other large industries are brought here through his efforts.