

MAMMOTH PLANT TO MAKE POWDER

Tacoma Will Have the Largest Factory in the United States

About 500 Men Will Be Employed by Dupont Company---Acquires 3,000 Acres of Land, Including Fine Waterfront Facilities.

Tacoma is to have the largest powder manufacturing plant in the United States. It is to be built by the Dupont Powder company at the mouth of the Nisqually river. Active construction work on the plant will begin the early part of July. It is estimated that about 200 men will be employed in the work. For two weeks two surveying crews have been engaged in making a topographical survey of the company's property, comprising about 3000 acres. About one month will be required for them to complete this work, after which the construction will be immediately taken up.

On this site the Dupont company will establish its largest plant. The deed to 2700 acres of the land and for the 1485 feet of waterfront property on which the company will construct its wharves was filed for record yesterday. A tract of land containing 292 acres more has been purchased from Moody, Call & Grier. The deed is at present in Chicago and will probably not be filed in Tacoma for several days. The purchase price of the latter tract was \$30 per acre. It lies at the mouth of Sequimich creek, on the upper side and abutting on the waterfront. It adjoins the 2700 acres purchased by the Dupont company from Holden & Huggins.

Fine Waterfront Facilities.

The deal for the waterfront tract was closed during the past week with

the Seattle Sand & Gravel company, and, with the purchase yesterday of lot 4, section 22-19-1, giving a frontage of 1485 feet, the final obstacles in the way of construction work on the plant were removed. The company now has one of the finest harbor sites on the Pacific coast.

The construction work on the wharves will probably be some of the first work taken up. One of the representatives of the company recently stated to the Ledger that the company is more than pleased with the harbor site and that everything now was just as desired. At low tide there will be 35 feet of water at the company's docks. The wharves will extend only a short distance from the shore, and the water is so deep that pilings of extra length will be required in the construction.

The buildings which will comprise the big plant will be constructed for the most part of concrete, although iron and wood will be used to some extent. None of the workmen will be employed by the company will live on the 3000 acres.

Surveyors at Work.

Engineer B. W. C. Chamberlain has been in charge of the surveying work and it is probable that he will be joined by another engineer from the east during the present week. The topographical survey will require about

four weeks more for completion and the plans and maps of the property furnished by the engineers. Excavations and work on the wharves will begin just as soon as this survey is completed.

The first buildings to be completed will be the large roller house, dryhouse, ovens and an acid house. When the plant is in operation probably 500 men will be steadily employed. It is not the intention of the company to erect houses for the employees on the property purchased for the plant, or, rather, adjoining it. The company expects to have railway connections with Tacoma and their employees will reside in the city. While the establishment of the plant will not mean so much for adjoining property it will mean an increase of several hundred in the population of the city and also the addition of great industrial prestige, which the location in Tacoma of the largest powder plant in the United States would naturally mean.

The Dupont company has over forty powder plants in operation at the present time in the United States. The nearest ones to the Pacific coast are in Colorado and Wisconsin.

The company has been negotiating for the property at the mouth of the Nisqually river since last fall, though none of the plans were made public until the actual purchase of the property a few weeks ago. The company had been looking for the waterfront property for several weeks, but an agreement was not effected until recently.

Representative Uncommunicative.

Daniel Cauffiel of Johnstown, Pa., represented the Dupont company in the purchase of the property. He is in Tacoma at present, a guest at the Tacoma hotel. Mr. Cauffiel has been connected with the company in his present capacity for a number of years. He says that he knows all about the property purchased, but is at liberty to give no information regarding the company's plans. He would neither confirm nor deny the information that has been secured by the Ledger from an authoritative source regarding the company's plans for construction work.

The total consideration named in the deeds which were filed yesterday for record is \$78,032.50, in addition to which is the property purchased at auction from the state yesterday at county auditor's sale by Mr. Cauffiel, for which he paid \$225.40, and also the property purchased from Moody, Call & Grier, for which no deed has yet been filed, and which includes 292 acres of land purchased at \$30 per acre. This makes the total cost of the property purchased to date \$87,242.50. The land lies in sections 22-28 inclusive, and 33, township 19, range 1.

Family Worth \$100,000,000.

There is said to be over \$100,000,000 represented in the fortune of the Dupont family—the greatest powder makers in the world. They control the powder making of America with some 30 mills, and they do it by confiding to none, not even the patent office of the United States, the precious secrets of their trade.

There are six of the Duponts, descendants and heirs of Eluthere Irene Dupont de Nemours, who, fleeing from France during the Revolution, established a bit of a powder mill in Delaware in 1803. They are Eugene, head of the family and firm; Francis G., who has accomplished marvels of invention in mechanics and electricity; Dr. Alexis L., whose secrets of powder formulae are coveted by the kings of the world; Colonel Henry A., whose specialty is the swift and secure shipment of the product; Charles L., whose energies are devoted to the dangerous business of sealing explosives in cans and boxes, and Pierre and Francis, who, at constant risk of their lives, manage the dynamite and nitro-glycerine factories.

Two of the Duponts have lost their lives in the big Delaware plant—one of them, young La Motte, having a few years before gained fame for himself by running the Russian blockade with a shipment of powder for the allied troops in the Crimean war.

Many Buildings are Needed.

There are about 100 buildings in the plant at Wilmington. They are widely scattered as a precaution against fire, and heavy stone walls abound. The workmen wear soft leather shoes with wooden, not iron, pegs. The men work by the piece and come and go as much as they please. High wages are paid. The buildings are of thick stone, with light roofs of corrugated iron, hinged so that, should an explosion take place, they simply fold up and then fall back in place. This Wilmington plant produces about 50 tons of powder daily.

As the Duponts are building their mills now, there is a general power station remote from the mills, and long lines of shafting are run to the various buildings.

The great danger lies in the rolling rooms, where massive 14-ton rollers pulverize the powder. In the starting and stopping of the machinery the risk

is greatest, and in all its mills now the company has arranged devices by which the workmen start and stop them from a distance.

A peculiarity of life in the powder mills is the prevailing good health of the men, and even the horses employed about the factories are rounder and sleeker than horses employed elsewhere. The average death rate from violent causes in the Wilmington plant is only one a year.

Russia is sending hundreds of political prisoners to Siberia.

Japs Growing Cotton.

The Japanese are turning their attention to the subject of cotton growing in Corea, and have reached the conclusion that that country can produce a supply adequate to the wants of manufacturers of Japan. Some time ago certain people were felicitating United States upon the prospects of being able to supply the raw material to the Japanese which would enable them to keep the products of American spinning and weaving establishments out of the Orient, but even that hope must be dismissed, for it is quite evident now that they will not come to us for anything they can produce at home and that they will work untiringly to accomplish the fact of becoming as nearly self-dependent as possible.

Anything Good Is Bad.

The Dallos Chronicle says: A yarn is in circulation to the effect that strawberries cause insanity. Tomatoes are said to cause cancer, grapes cause appendicitis, apples cause colic and all the good things are popularly supposed to cause something dreadful—excepting the good old Oregon prune, and it isn't to be trusted until it is dried. Please pass the dried prunes and send the strawberries East to your "poor relations."

Have You a Cough?

A dose of Ballard's Horehound Syrup will relieve it. Have you a cold?

Try it for whooping cough, for asthma, consumption, for bronchitis. Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st street; Hutchinson, Kan., writes: "I have used Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my family for five years, and find it the most palatable medicine I ever used. For sale by D. J. Fry."

Up In the Air.

A day or so Gilbert, of Yale, vaulted 12 feet 3 inches, breaking the record held by Dole, of Stanford. Now comes Leroy Sams, of the state university of Indiana, with a new world's record of 12 feet 4 1/2 inches. "That's surely getting up in the air," and the question arises, "Who will be next?"

Many Chinese are being smuggled onto the canal zone.



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