

INDUSTRIAL WORKS IN PYRMONT - 1884

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Pyrmont presents such abundant signs of work in its many forms that it seems specially representative of industry, and those who pursue it. Not only does the district contain a great many establishments in which hard-working mechanics and labourers earn their daily bread, but it is the domestic home of large numbers employed in the vicinity and elsewhere. Its tone and atmosphere savour of toil, and it may be duly considered a home of industry over which the genius of labour might sit enthroned, and look around well pleased. Here, new works are in progress, while others have been recently completed....

In Thomas-street the construction is being carried on, and in Wattle-street ballast is being carted to form the street prior to its being metalled. A road is being made down Quarry-street, joining Pyrmont with Wentworth Park. The extension of Harris-street on the water has also been commenced. This work has been rendered necessary by the continuous wearing of the road in wet weather, the water having cut the ground into deep ruts and overflowed into the adjoining property, occupied by Messrs. Davey and Sands...

Immediately adjacent to this extension are the engineering works of Messrs. Davey and Sands, to which additions have been made. Among them is a boilermaker's shop ... The firm have also added a 600-ton slip to their plant, which now embraces a full complement adapted to all branches of work. One piece of machinery may be selected as an admirable example of purely local industry. This is a powerful radial drill, having a radius of 7 feet, with horizontal and vertical adjustment, and capable of boring holes ranging from one-eighth of an inch to 2 feet in diameter. The machine ... is the first made in Sydney, while within the Davey and Sands' works, one cannot [overlook] the buildings occupied by the Colonial Refining Company. These premises adjoin the machinery works, and cover about an acre and a quarter on the water frontage. The establishment was opened in 1876-77 as a refinery capable of producing 400 tons per week. The weekly output now amounts to 700 tons. Additions have been made. The latest and most noticeable is a large storehouse of wood and iron, and presents the unusual feature of a roof of 100 feet, the span being supported by wooden principals without a single column. This leaves the interior space clear for storage and freedom of movement. The store is filled with stacks of sugar bags, 35 feet high. The superstructure carries hoists capable of lifting half a ton, worked by hydraulic power, for moving the sugar.

On the other side of Harris-street, on the projecting water frontage, are the new buildings in course of erection by Messrs. Goodlet and Smith, timber merchants. The principal building is a large five-story workshop of wood and galvanised iron, while numerous windows give an agreeable relief to what would otherwise be an ugly dead wall. A small turret over the middle of the front. On the ground floor will be the main driving engine and the heavier machinery. The engine is a double-cylinder horizontal, with cylinders or 20 inches in diameter. The belting which connects it with the shaft will be of rope, and accelerating pulleys are introduced. The driving wheel and pulleys are duplicated and have six grooves each, so that the driving belt will consist of 12 ropes. There will be three other pairs of Tangye's engines; one to drive a large paring-down machine, another for a horizontal borer, and the third for the hydraulic accumulators and engineer's machinery.

In the upper floors will be the lighter saws and dressing machinery, drying rooms for joiner's timber, shaping and moulding machines, and the finer implements used in the preparation of carpenter and joiner's work. At the back of the building is a 5-ton traveller, running into the building, worked by a flying rope, so that no fire may be taken into the building. At the back of

the property there is a surveyed street, but it is simply the rugged surface of the rock, and stands about 25 feet above the floor of the works. It is overrun by sewerage from the houses on the top of the rock, and the drainage flows down into the timber yard [although] Council have been strongly urged to make the street. There is also a stone building in progress.

Passing along Harris-street, several buildings will be noticed; among these Messrs. Blackwood and M'Kedie's new machinery store devoted to the storage of implements of all descriptions. It adjoins the Public Hall. Further on in Harris-street, on an open space near Allen-street, a gang of workmen are making the foundations for an ice factory and freezing establishment.

Turning now from Harris-street into Abattoir road, the visitor will reach the quarry and newly-erected stone-cutting works of Mr. Robert Saunders, just at the corner where the road turns along the water. The older establishment belonging to Mr. Saunders is situated at the top of Black Wattle Cove, and between these two points are several new properties on the water frontage. This part of Pymont is particularly valuable to industries such as the timber trade, as a good road runs along the flat end in front of the building sites, and there is an excellent water frontage immediately on the other side. A dredge is at work in the Cove.

The first of these tenements is occupied by Mr. Robert Mays, as a timber wharf and storage ground. Some small buildings and a substantial wharf have been erected, and cutting machinery will probably be added.

On the next allotment is another timber yard, occupied by Mr P. Davies. The buildings contain an engine and circular saws, cutting paving blocks for the corporation. The wharf is being completed, three months since the works were commenced. Next to this is Messrs. D. and W. Robertson's boiler, bridge, and shipbuilding works, containing iron working appliances.

Further on is the largest and oldest establishment on this frontage, the timber yard belonging to Mr. Francis Guy.

At the wharf lie several timber craft, and quantities of timber are stacked. Between this allotment and the head of the cove is an open space which will doubtless be occupied by similar establishments.

On coming back towards the city, attention is arrested by the splendid warehouses of Messrs. Goldsbrough and Co., and, leaving the works of private persons, we may describe the meat market in course of erection by the Government close to Messrs. Goldsbrough and Co.'s building.

The market faces southward, with another front towards the Darling Harbour. It occupies a space 160 feet square. There will be two stories, the first of which is now almost complete. The lower floor is level with the flat ground in Pymont Street, and will be entered by a low-level railway siding of three lines of rail passing through arches in the south front. There will also be sidings running along the Darling Harbour front, which have numerous doors, 10 in all. From the rail level to the top of the upper floor is 18 feet 6 inches, which brings the middle of the building on a level with Allen-street, where the roadway, 42 feet wide, will be carried on arches, so as to admit light to the lower flat. The lower story is strongly built of brick and iron, and laid with the best Seysell asphalt. The foundations go down about 20 feet. The walls and the arches under the road are very substantial, particularly the wall on the Pymont-street side. This part of the building is to serve as a retaining wall for the railway embankment which will carry the line past Messrs. Goldsbrough and Co.'s warehouse. This wall is 7 feet thick at the bottom. In

the walls of the structure about one million bricks have been used. The upper story will be of wood and iron, with large rib-glass windows. It will rise to a further 26 feet to the top of the ridging. The walls will be divided by pillars, and in each division will be long flat windows, rounded at the upper corners, with iron lattice work in the spandrils. The roof will be largely composed of glass. There will be a verandah all round, and various ornaments; and the building will have a really handsome appearance. Special arrangements will secure perfect ventilation, together with the exclusion of dust, and complete drainage. All the cornices and mouldings will be made of galvanised iron ... The entire cost will be about £60,000.

One other public building may be mentioned, viz., the new Public school in John-street.