

Dollar Weekly News

January 6, 1905 page seven

Brilliant Reception Marks Ferracute's Opening

The magnificent new plant of the Ferracute Machine Company was formally opened last Saturday evening with a reception and dance, at which about four hundred persons were in attendance.

The event took place in the mammoth new machine shop and was unique, brilliant and enjoyable in high degree. It was all the more enjoyable because of its unique character – the place and conditions were so different from those of the customary reception, and yet everything was just as nicely arranged as could be.

The buildings and grounds were brightly lighted and the scene was one of brilliance and beauty. Indeed, the illumination of long strings of Japanese lanterns about the grounds conveyed a touch of fairyland.

Upon approaching the visitors first went through the handsome new office building of the company, which was thrown open for their inspection. The fine offices for the various departments and the complete equipment were the subject of universal admiration.

The long new building in which are the engine room and many other departments of the works was also inspected by many.

At the reception hall, the mammoth new machine shop, every comer received a hearty welcome as he, or she, passed along the receiving line and shook hands with Messrs. Oberlin Smith, William A. Logue, J. Burkett Webb, Charles H. Stevenson, Henry A. Janvier, Frank McGalliard, Enos Paullin, Percival Smith, and others. No one could feel otherwise than that it was a most sincere greeting which was given. First the guests were seated on either side of the long centre aisle of the building – if such it may be called – chatting with one another and listening to a capital musical programme which included selections by Criterion orchestra, clarinet solos by Jonathan Mulford, cornet solos by Mr. Lloyd, vocal selections by the Frist Presbyterian choir and by the male quartette composed of Messrs. F. E. Barker, Ellis Ayars, Sidney Williams and Elwood Weber. The acoustics of the big building are very strong and the music fairly rang as it floated out to its hearers.

SHOWED THE BIG CRANE

Then Mr. Smith had an exhibition given of the operation of the new and wonderful 20-ton Niles crane, which working by electricity and guided by a man in the little "watch-tower" suspended from it, passed up and down the length of the building, high up over the heads of the people, and finally picked up a huge press, weighing several tons in itself, and carried it up and down the building's length, with Mr. William Seilers standing on the press, and finally set it down just at the point where it had picked it up. The exhibition of this marvelous crane was viewed with keen interest. At each side are also two smaller (5-ton) cranes.

Then came the grand march, in which most of those present participated, and the merry dances, all the more enjoyable for being so informal. And ere long delicious refreshments were served the guests by a

corps of experienced waiters. Chicken salad, breadsticks, tea biscuits and butter were the first course. Neapolitan blocks and fancy cakes the second, hot coffee and rich cream the third.

It was midnight when the orchestra put away their instruments and the last guests departed just as the New Year, dazzling in its starry beauty, put in its appearance.

The Ferracute reception and dance will long live in the memory of those who were present. It was one of the most successful affairs of its kind ever held here and as has been said, its very difference from others served to heighten the enjoyment and quicken the zest. The arrangements in the big building were excellent and in every respect President Smith and the entire Ferracute Company are to be heartily congratulated upon the success of this brilliant inaugural of their new plant.

THE NEW FERRACUTE – ITS MAGNIFICENT PLANT

When lurid flames lit the heavens on that stormy September night, 1903, and the word was passed that the Ferracute Machine Shops at East Lake had been consumed by the devastating element fire, there was general regret in Bridgeton over the loss of a great industry which it was feared would not hereafter remain in business here. It was felt, however, that this establishment of all others was so thoroughly identified with the city's business interests that it should be retained at ... hazards. A supreme effort was therefore made, and the necessary capital secured for the formation of a stock company and the erection of a new and greater Ferracute. Financial aid was promptly furnished, and today we have the new plant, the finest of its character to be found in the United States.

A picture of the plant which was dedicated on Saturday is appended. It was taken while the snow lay heavy on the ground under disadvantage, but it is representative of what will be more perfectly shown when the plant is finally finished. The view is by photography with invitation to guests attached.

THE BEAUTIFUL SITE – ITS COMMANDING SITUATION

THE OFFICE

Located on about an acre of elevated ground, naturally prominent, a few feet westward of the former site, the new plant is beautifully situate and commands a fine view of the lake and roadways of the surrounding country. From East Commerce Street the visitor passes up a gentle slope to the office, the front being approached by a concrete path, with graceful arrangement of grass plots and coping which when complete will present as clever a plan of landscape gardening as can be found anywhere. So fine is the situation and its surroundings that the passerby in trolley, by vehicle, or on foot, is led involuntarily to exclaim – "How beautiful!"

The office building is a two-story structure, 45x50 feet; of unique exterior, a style of architecture of President Oberlin Smith's own conception. The tower at the south-west corner is of imposing appearance, surmounted by a weather-vane which is seen at a long distance. The material is of red stretcher brick, with Trenton brown stone foundations, and slate roof. The entrance on the South and East is beneath porches supported by graceful columns.

The interior is a model of convenience for every department and official head of the Ferracute business. Large doors usher the visitor into the Lobby, with its tasty suite of prairie grass furniture. On the left is the President's office furnished in quiet, yet elegant style. The woodwork is of oak with old style

Venetian blinds also in oak. Office table of oak; comfortable leather reclining chairs; brick fireplace with the old-time brightly burnished andirons, give a homelike, refined air to this beautiful apartment. The large plate glass windows of the office in a semi-circle look out upon the waters of East Lake with a far view of Commerce Street, west and south. The President's room is likewise the Directors' room, where the business affairs of the corporation are transacted. In this cozy apartment President Smith is not only surrounded by an abundance of light, but he can at a glance at the chandelier above see the direction from which the wind blows, as per points of the compass, a nicely adjusted ball-bearing N. S. E. W. answering to the movement of the vane on the tower.

The library, neatly arranged on ornamental shelves, exhibits the taste and habits of thought of the talented head of the Ferracute. Among the volumes are textbooks on "Shop and Foundry Practice;" Wilson's "Practical Tool Maker and Designer;" MacCord's "Elements of Mechanics;" Rankine's "Applied Mechanics;" Sturtevant's "Mechanical Draft;" Niles' "Machine Tools;" "American Institute on Electrical Engineers;" Clark's "Manual of Rules, Tables and Data for Mechanical Engineers;" Pamphlets, etc.

Decorations include portrait of James Watts, discoverer of steam, from the original picture by Sir William Beechey, B.A.; photograph of the largest mechanical press built at the Ferracute, known as Series S.G.G. -534, weight 76,000 pounds, and a large steel engraving entitled "The Iron Worker and King Solomon." The latter picture is a scene which according to Jewish Legend portrayed the magnificent interior of the Throne Room in Solomon's Temple on its opening day, with a great company of notables in attendance. Inscribed on the margin is the following story; - "When the Temple at Jerusalem was completed, King Solomon gave a feast to the artificers employed in its construction. On unveiling the Throne it was found that a blacksmith had usurped the seat of honor on the right of the king's place not yet awarded. Whereupon the people clamored, and the guard rushed to cut him down. "Let him speak," commanded King Solomon. Thou hast, O King, invited all craftsmen but me, yet how could these builders have raised the Temple without the tools I fashioned?" "True," decreed Solomon, "The seat is his, of right. All honor to the Iron Worker!"

On the right of the lobby is the Vice-President's room, offices for the Secretary and Treasurer, and Accounting Department. On the west side is the Drafting Room with vault; underneath are commodious cellars for sample room and storage, with vault for old files. The attic is occupied by the department of photography for illustrations of machinery.

One of the fine features of the office building is a system of electric lights which by touch of button can be turned on in one department or in all of them at the will of the operator. The Ferracute manufactures its own electricity, but in case it should fail, it can by switch arrangement – a turn in the opposite direction – connect with the city electric wires and thereby secure the needed light and power. The building is heated by the "direct – indirect radiator" system of the Warren-Webster company, Camden, New Jersey.

An "Inter-communicating Telephone" system connects the different departments with the office instantly, and in such a way that one can communicate with three or four departments at once. If so desired, without the aid or expense of an operator.

The office is also equipped with a splendid system of ventilation, latest and best, and has four lavoirs with stationary washstands.

THE GREAT MACHINE SHOP

This immense building with a height of about three stories runs 200 feet East and West, 100 feet North and South. It is built on stone foundations, brick walls, pillars and girders of structural steel. The East end is finished in corrugated iron so that as the business increases and more space is required in the shop an additional 100 feet can be added at any time to the Elm Street end. The roof is so constructed of tile and thick ribbed glass as to furnish a mellow light at all hours of the day, and to protect the workmen from the heat of the sun on the South side in the heat of the summer. A wire netting under the glass roof completely protects workmen from injury in case any portion of it falls. Window frames are made of iron, and no part of the building is made of wood. The window panes are thick pane glass, same as roof, and the structure is fireproof throughout. The floor is of cement, hard and even. A complete Sturtevant system of hot air furnishes heat for the shop.

Branch of the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad with switch runs on to the property so that one section goes into the machine shop with track extensive enough to take two cars into the building at one time. Another branch brings coal to the plant by steel cars of 100,000 pounds capacity where their contents can be dumped directly into the coal bins. The branches of the railroad are so perfect that raw material can be brought in and the finished product taken out of the shop and shipped directly to any part of the world. By means of iron partitions the shop is divided into stock room, tool room, die room, press room. At the northwest corner is the forge shop, and its equipment is such that it is capable of getting out work in its line on the same high standard with other parts of the shop quickly and cheaply.

A twenty ton Niles electric crane is one of the wonders of this great shop. It runs on a steel railway, the main shop being divided into three general divisions with the twenty ton crane in the middle, and five ton electric cranes in each of the two others. The big crane lifts machinery on to the cars, while the small cranes move the finished and unfinished products from machine to machine in course of construction. The large crane has in addition to its lifting power a weighing capacity of 40,000 pounds, and can lift and weigh a machine for shipment at one and the same time without extra handling. There are also auxiliary cranes in each division in case the others are busy. The 20-ton Niles crane does its work very quickly and can run from end to end of the building, 200 feet, in two-thirds of a minute.

Machinery is arranged in the following order: Heavy machinery begins at East end of building taking in the raw material, other machinery grading down to the lightest at the west end, this progressing from machine to machine until it is finished and loaded on the cars for shipment at the west end.

Every machine will be driven by electric motor, each independent of every other. This system does away with the overhead shafting and belting – none appearing except on the machine itself where it is geared to the motor.

Light and sanitary facilities are perfect. The daylight cones in from all sides, and it is impossible to find a dark spot in the building. Lavoirs are located in convenient sections for the use of the men, which can beat such intervals as desired.

In the pediment of the west front of the shop appears the words "Ferracute" "1863-1904."

THE PATTERN SHOP

This shop or combination of shops, a one-story building of brick about 185 by 25 feet, divided by fire walls into carpenter shop, engine room, boiler room, pattern store, is constructed with a view to safety. The roof is of slag, and the building has an automatic sprinkler system for fire purposes. The heating and ventilating systems are largely on the same lines as those in the other buildings connected with the Ferracute plant. The engine room is to be equipped with very high grade speed turbine engines that connect directly with the boiler, and transmit light and power by wire wherever needed. There are two of these modern engines 75-KW, equal to one hundred horse power each.

POWER AND EFFICIENCY

THE POLICY OF THE FERRACUTE

In all the departments of the business over which Oberlin Smith presides the key to results is "power." The faculty of doing or performing something is everywhere apparent. Efficiency is the word that counts. From applied power has come prestige – prestige which has given the Ferracute a high standard in the manufacturing directory of the world.

Added to mechanical power by which so many labor saving machines have come into use, is the splendid force of workmen many of them long employed and personally interested in the successful operation of the restored industry at East Lake.

GREAT RESULTS FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS

In the year 1863, in the midst of the civil war at an hour when our liberties were trembling in the balance, a young man, Oberlin Smith by name, came to Bridgeton, and began business for himself in a little shop on Laurel Street, about where Cole's Livery and stables are now located. Proprietor and employee all in one, he went straight ahead, until he began to employ others in the manufacture of gas-fitters' tools. Later on, taking in J. Burkett Webb as a partner, the firm became known as Smith & Webb. Adopting the name Ferracute in 1873, the plant was located on the recent burned out site in 1876. In 1877 it became an incorporated company with Oberlin Smith, President. The name –Ferracute- is from the Italian, meaning "sharp iron." And, wonderful indeed, is the sharp iron that has been moulded and shaped into presses, dies and machinery in the years of successful business existence since that primitive beginning on Laurel Street.

THE COMPANY ORGANIZATION

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

President – Oberlin Smith

Board of Directors – Oberlin Smith, William A. Logue, Henry A. Janvier, J. Burkett Webb, Percival H. Smith.

Secretary and Treasurer – Enos Paullin, in employ sixteen years.

Assistant Engineer Drafting Department - Henry Janvier, twenty-seven years.

Superintendent Shops – Charles H. Stevenson, twenty-eight years

William F. Ware – Chief Die Department, twenty-eight years.

Foreman Tool Department – Albert S. Lambert, twenty-two years

Forge Foreman – Stephen Butler, thirty-two years

Foreman Press Department – William M. Sellers, twenty-one years

Foreman Die Department – Clayton B. Weaver, sixteen years

Foreman Carpenter – Robert Craig, sixteen years

Foreman Pattern Department – Harry Hicks

Machinist – Joseph Hankins, thirty-three years

Blacksmith – Frank McGee, twenty three years

Electrician in control of all electrical affairs – Philip Meyers

Chief Clerk Accounting Department – Frank McGalliard.

Drafting Department – Percival H. Smith, Herbert Mayer, Luther C. Meyers, John Gillott and H. P. Purdin.

Shipping Clerk – George L. Henshall

Time keeper and Cost Clerk – John M. Westcott

Stenographers – Gertrude Etherington and Hattie M. Stevens

THE MANUFACTURED OUTPUT –

ITS CHARACTER – ITS VALUE

Presses and dies for sheet metal work are turned out in great number, a large percentage of the manufactures being exported to foreign countries.

Only last week over \$10,000worth was shipped from the Ferracute to China, in the form of presses, dies and other machines for the production of copper coins (10 cash) for Honan province, capable of producing 200, 000 coins a day of ten hours. Mr. A. S. Lambert of the Ferracute will follow the machine at an early date to superintend its erection and operation in the Flowery Kingdom. On a previous occasion Mr. Henry A. Janvier superintended the putting up of a mint outfit in one of the Chinese provinces.

In 1902 coining presses were shipped to Bolivia, Peru, Calcutta, British India; U. S. Mint, San Francisco, and a large private mint in England. In 1904 presses and machinery were shipped to England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, China, Japan, Western Australia, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Russia, Canada, Newfoundland, India, Mexico.

During the year 1903 at the rate work was being turned out at time of fire, the Ferracute would have produced \$200,000 worth of machinery dies and presses, and used in their manufacture over 1,500,000 pounds of castings made in Bridgeton foundries.

Sixteen hundred dollars per week in cash is paid to its employees by the Ferracute Company, which with the added monies paid through the foundries and merchandise accounts amounts to a grand total of \$2,500.

The cost of the new plant – buildings, machinery, tools, etc. will amount to about \$150,000.

Exhibits of the products of the Ferracute were made at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876; at Chicago (Columbian Exposition) 1893; at Paris, (Universale Exposition) 1901; at New Orleans, Buffalo and Charleston, all of which attracted much attention, and added to the already world-wide reputation of the Company. Machinery is now being returned from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at which the Ferracute was awarded a gold medal.

This magnificent plant and much of its great success has come from the skillful brain of Oberlin Smith, the honored head of the Ferracute Industry. A member of the "American Society of Mechanical Engineers," (once President); the "American Society of Civil Engineers;" "American Society of Electrical Engineers;" the "American Society of Mining Engineers;" distinguished in the great work to which he has devoted his life he ranks with the leading mechanical engineers of America and the world. To him the city of Bridgeton owes much. He has given us an industry which any American city might well be proud.

THE EMPLOYEES

Following is a list of machinists and other workmen now in the employ of the Ferracute, 115 in all:

J. Adams	I Dare	A Johnson
L. Allen	J. Dilks	George Kauffman
W.B. Archer	H. Dubois	C. Krauter
H. Ayars	P. DuBois	A.S. Lambert
William Bateman	J. Elmer	W. Laning
H. Beckett	W. R. Elmer	A. Loder
J. Bendernagle	C. Etherington	C. Loder
Al Bowen	G. O. Etherington	J. Lore
F. Bowen	R. Flowers, Jr.	D.S. Loveland
V. Bramell	R. Flowers, Sr.	A. Maier
F. Brecking	E. Foster	R. Matlack
Thomas Bright	D. Frazier	A. Mattison
L. Broomall	H. Garton	H. Mayer
C. Brown	A. Getsinger	C. McCormick
E. Buck	J. Gilliot	C. McCulley
S. Butler	J. Hankins	F. McGalliard
Z. Butler	F. Hyatt	F. McKee
W. Butterfield	L. Henderson	F. McWilliams
J. Campbell	G. Henshall	W. McWilliams
W. Clawson	G.L. Henshall	William Mercer
J. Corson	H. E. Hicks	L. Meyers
C. Cowan	James E. Hicks	P. Meyers
A. Craig	Smith Hires	R. Mixner
Bert Craig	E. Hunekar	J. Mulford
E. Craig	A. Ireland	I. Nichols
R. E. Craig	H. A. Janvier	A. Parvin

George Paullin
H. Paullin
J. Paullin
H. Phillipi
C. Pierce
J. Pierpoint
C. Pogue
H. B. Purden
R. Radcliffe
J.F. Rainear
T. Rammel
H. Rennels
J. L. Robeson
F. E. Robinson
H. Shaw
J.M. Shaw
U. Schenck
C. Scull
R. Seeley
W. Sellers
W. Sheppard
C. Silvers
R. Simpkins
William Simpkins
F. Smith
P.H. Smith
F. Somers
S. Stathem
H. M. Stevens
C. H. Stevenson
A Thompson
Sidney R. Turner
Joseph Vanaman
J. T. Vanaman
S. Vanaman
F. Wallace
J.M. Ware
R. Ware
W. F. Ware
C. Weaver
J. M. Wescoat
S. Williams
W. Wills
R. Woodruff