

WHITE CRYSTAL QUARRY OPENED

After Being Closed Down For Several Years Operations Has Been Resumed.

WILL HAVE NEW EQUIPMENT

New York Owners Will Refit Plant With New Steel Derrick and Drilling Machinery.

The White Crystal Marble plant on the Clinton Hall farm, about three miles from this village, which has been idle for a few years past, will be started again as soon as the necessary preparations can be made, work having been begun Monday. Robert McCull, their former superintendent who has been in charge of the Gouverneur Co's quarry for the past year, is again in charge, having resigned his position with the latter company Saturday.

The owners of the White Crystal property with the exception of H. B. Brewster of Syracuse, is composed of wealthy New York quarry operators, who have large quarry interests at South Dover, Dutchess county, and elsewhere. The present quarry will be developed and improved to a considerable extent and a large area will be uncovered. Drills will be started as soon as the steam plant can be put in running order and the stone will be shipped in the block and slab, for the present at least.

Four teams of large draft horses will be used to transport the product to this village for shipment. Three of the teams will be sent here by the company, while the fourth will be purchased here. There is some talk at present of using traction engines for hauling the stone to this village, but it is not thought that the plan would be a success, owing to the condition of the highway. It is now believed by many that ultimately an electric line will be constructed to the quarry from this village, as this would solve the transportation problem and would at once make this the largest stone industry in the state.

Since the construction of the Horton residence and barn at Middletown a few years ago of the stone from this quarry, the demand from various sections of the state and particularly from New York city has

been great, but the cost of transporting it to this village was so great that there was a very small margin left for the producers, and in consequence no effort was made to continue the business after their first and only large contract was completed.

The stone is a beautiful white and of a tough texture and for hammered work it has no equal for beauty of finish for building or many other purposes. For cemetery vault construction, where the surface would be hammered there are few, if any varieties of stone now produced that would equal it for beauty of finish or lasting qualities. Upwards of twenty-five hands will be employed as soon as the plant can be made ready for operation and this force will be greatly augmented during the summer, when development work is being carried on.

A large amount of machinery will be brought here from various plants now owned by the company, including channeling drills, gadding machines and other equipment necessary. Negotiations are now pending with the American Derrick & Hoist Co of New York, for one of their most modern and costly steel derricks with steam hoist attached and the institution of this outfit will at once make the White Crystal the most modern plant of the kind in Northern New York.

This valuable stone extends over a large territory including the Hall and several adjoining farms and the fact that it is almost invariably found near the surface makes the cost of developing a quarry small as compared to many of the openings which have been made in the immediate vicinity of this village, where many feet in depth of top soil is usually found. The sawing equipment of this plant is in good condition being practically new and was designed and installed by D. W. C. Whitney of this village, and the late Edward Morrison.

The gangs are of different construction from those in use in the other mills in this vicinity and they cut very rapidly. The mill will undoubtedly be enlarged in the near future and other finishing machinery will no doubt be installed including a stone planer, which is a very necessary machine these days, where building work is carried on to any extent.

When Mr Brewster visited this village about three weeks ago he was enthusiastic over the future prospects for the White Crystal stone and was thoroughly satisfied that with the present demand the quarry would be

operated on a scale larger than was ever attempted by any of the stone concern in this section since the stone business was first instituted in this town.

Northern Tribune, Wednesday, March 25, 1908, page 1, col. 4.