

GRAHAM PLANT TO BE DOUBLED

Present Factory Will Also Be Remodeled and Equipped with Latest Machinery

WILL SUPPLY THE SOUTH

New Buildings Will Cover Three and a Half Acres but Not Completed for a Year

Advantages of Evansville Such That a Still Further Enlargement of Plant Probable

It was learned yesterday from an authoritative source that the board of directors of the Owens Bottle Machine company, owners of the Graham Glass works of this city, had, through M. J. Owens, general manager, authorized the building of an addition to the local plant which will more than double its capacity. The old plant will also be remodeled and the machinery modernized.

The addition, when completed, will cover three and a half acres of ground and will bring the total investment in the Evansville factory up to more than a million dollars. The entire factory will be of steel and concrete, fireproof throughout. It is the intention of the company to make Evansville one of their biggest manufacturing plants.

Already the Evansville factory makes more Coca Cola, beer, ginger ale and bottles of a like character than any factory in the United States. Most of these bottles are shipped South and Evansville's natural advantages have decided the company into enlarging the plant here.

Evansville to Supply South

It has been found that factories farther south than Evansville are not successful. No deposits of silica sand are available and the long hauls on this, as well as on fuel, make them impractical so Evansville has been decided on as the logical point to supply the South.

The plant now consists of two furnaces and three shifts of men are working eight hours each to supply the trade. The addition will contain one furnace, to cost as much as both of those now in operation and capable of handling as much work. Plans are now under way for the building and equipment, but it is learned that the refractories companies cannot deliver silica brick, which are used in the crown of the furnace, until the first part of 1918. However, all work on the building and equipment except the furnace will be rushed to completion and modern machinery installed. The furnace will be installed just as soon as material can be had.

Big Trade in Latin-America

The local company, since the war started, has built up an enormous trade in South America and Mexico. In addition to the trade already established in this country. Owing to the fact that German labor is paid only about one-third that paid by the local company, it has been impossible heretofore to compete with manufacturers of that country in the South American market. However, with the modern automatic machinery to be installed, the local factory hopes to be able to so reduce the cost of their product as to hold their foreign after the close of the war.

The local company now has booked all the business it can handle until 1918 and no additional lines will be manufactured when the new plant is completed. They have long seen their inability to supply their fast-growing trade and made an effort the first of the year to put in a new furnace which was found impossible on account of shortage of materials. The company has a factory at Logansport, Ind., and has taken over two in Oklahoma to help supply the Evansville trade and it is believed, taking into consideration the present growth of the company's business, these factories and the remodeled Evansville factory will not be able to satisfy the trade in a few years and that probably another addition will be built at Evansville.