“New Clearing for Marble of the World”
(Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company, Long Island City, New York)

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The article begins:

“The growing popularity of marble as a building and decorative material is nowhere better demonstrated than in the growth of the industry engaged in its cutting, carving and setting and in the increasing facilities for its handling by dealers and manufacturers. A survey of the marble industry, when one is made, will show quarries and mills where the marble is taken from the natural formations of the earth and, it will show mills and plants in every important city and town in the country, all equipped with machinery and manner by skilled workmen directed by trained foremen. This gigantic industry has been built up with a background of Nature’s chosen material and maintained and enlarged because marble never fails in its mission to enhance beauty in architecture and art, please the eye and withstand the ravages of time…."

“…In order to facilitate this handling of marble to its customers in all parts of the country, the Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company has seen the need of a great modern marble sawing mill with storage yards and cranes for the rapid transport of blocks, and slabs by water, rail and motor truck. This idea has been realized in the construction of a new saw mill in Long Island City, which has now been in operation since August 1st. With its vast storage yards and warehouses this depot is one of the largest in the world…."

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

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New Clearing House for Marbles of the World

The growing popularity of marble as a building and decorative material is nowhere better demonstrated than in the growth of the industry engaged in its cutting, carving and setting and in the increasing facilities for its handling by dealers and manufacturers. A survey of the marble industry, when one is made, will show quarries and mills where the marble is taken from the natural formations of the earth and, it will show mills and plants in every important city and town in the country, all equipped with machinery and manned by skilled workmen directed by trained foremen. This gigantic industry has been built up with a background of Nature’s chosen material and maintained and enlarged because marble never fails in its mission to enhance beauty in architecture and art, please the eye and withstand the ravages of time.

Not many years ago marble was considered a luxury, an embellishment that only the very rich could afford, but modern machinery, changes in building methods and the education of the public have served to shatter this fallacy with the result that no building of any size or importance is erected today without its marble hallways, its marble floors, wainscoting and interior decorative details and, as the public becomes better acquainted with building materials there is a growing demand for all-marble structures, especially banks, theatres, clubs and libraries and even private residences. Veritable mountains of marble are being used, transported to our American cities that they may be made more beautiful, more lasting and inspire civic pride in the hearts of the people. This moving of marble mountains block by block from Italy, France, Spain, South America, Belgium and other countries and from far distant parts of our own country to the mills and sites of buildings requires organization and modern methods for cutting and handling. In order to facilitate this handling of marble to its customers in all parts of the country, the Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company has seen the need of a great modern marble sawing mill with storage yards and cranes for the rapid transport of blocks, and slabs by water, rail and motor truck. This idea has been realized in the construction of a new saw mill in Long Island City, which has now been in operation since August Ist. With its vast storage yards and ware-

*(photo caption)* “New Mill and Storage Yard of the Tompkins-Kiel Company, Long Island City, New York. Showing steel frame of mill and storage building, exterior storage yard with private dock on East River. This plant will be one of the largest marble depots or clearing houses for marble in the world.”
Partial view of the 200-foot wharf of Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company’s new marble depot, mill and storage yards in Long Island City, New York. Marbles from all over the world is received from lighters at this wharf.

As all of the marble entering New York is handled by lighters, both from incoming boats and from trains from the interior, the 200 foot wharf of the Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company’s new plant affords rapid and easy unloading and the reloading of both blocks and slabs. From the wharf the blocks are lifted by the traveling cranes and deposited at any desired location in the mill for sawing, or in the storage yards, and from the yards onto the trucks for delivery in the Metropolitan district. A fleet of seven motor trucks is maintained for this work. Slabs and blocks for delivery by rail are re-shipped by lighter to the railway terminals. The several views herewith shown were selected to show the size of the plant and its facilities for the handling and storage of large quantities of blocks and slabs. With this mill and distributing depot in operation architects and marble contractors need have no fears concerning the immediate delivery of marble in quantity and they can proceed with their plans with every assurance of quality material of whatever variety they may specify and delivered as the job progresses.

(photocaption) “Partial view of the 200-foot wharf of Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company’s new marble depot, mill and storage yards in Long Island City, New York. Marbles from all over the world is received from lighters at this wharf.”
Section of Interior of new Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company Mill and Storage Yard, Long Island City, N. Y., showing some of the gang saws. Steel skeleton frame work of main mill building is seen in upper right of photograph.