

# “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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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,  
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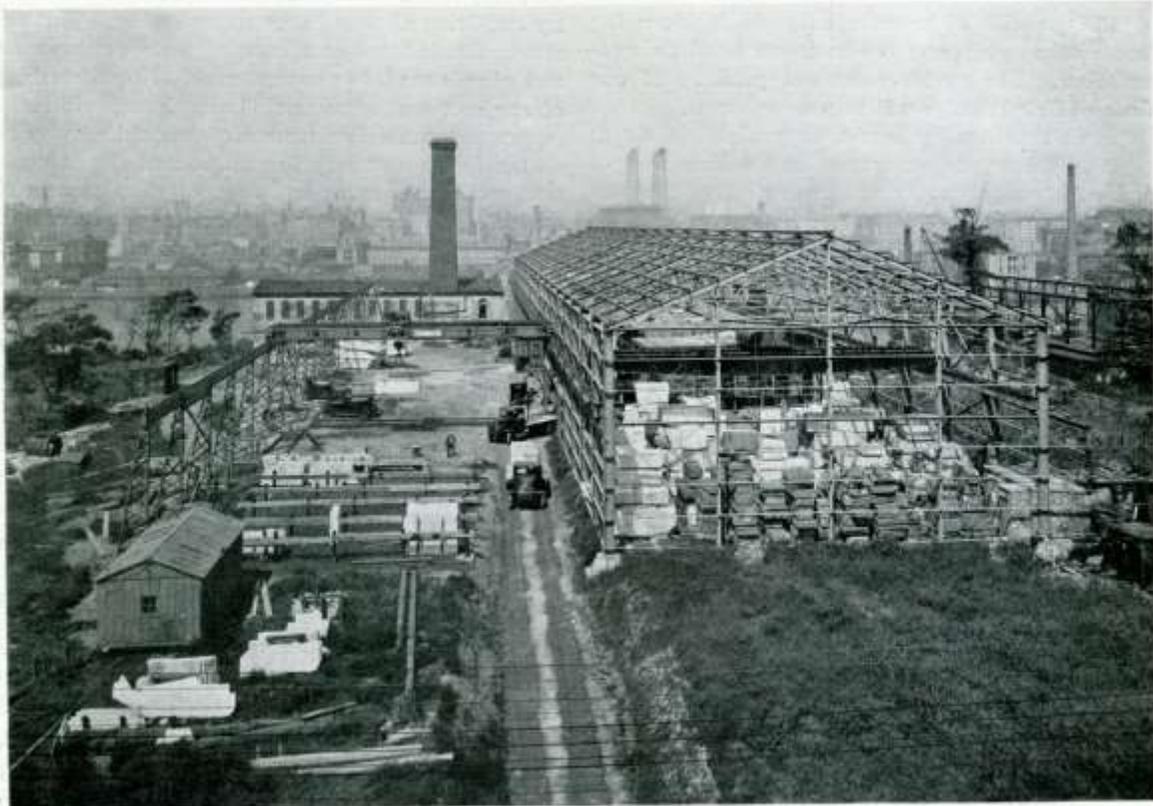
Peggy B. Perazzo  
Email: [pbperazzo@comcast.net](mailto:pbperazzo@comcast.net)  
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## New Clearing House for Marbles of the World

**T**HE 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 1st. With its vast storage yards and ware-



New Mill and Storage Yard of the Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company, Long Island City, N. Y. 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.

*(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."

houses this depot is one of the largest in the world and in its appointments, perhaps, the most complete and strictly modern saw mill and wholesale marble yard to be found in any country.

The new Tompkins-Kiel marble plant, yards and wharf are located on East bank of East River at the foot of Pierce Avenue and fronting on Vernon Avenue, giving it every advantage of transport by water and easy access by motor trucks. From the 200 foot wharf on the East River the property extends back



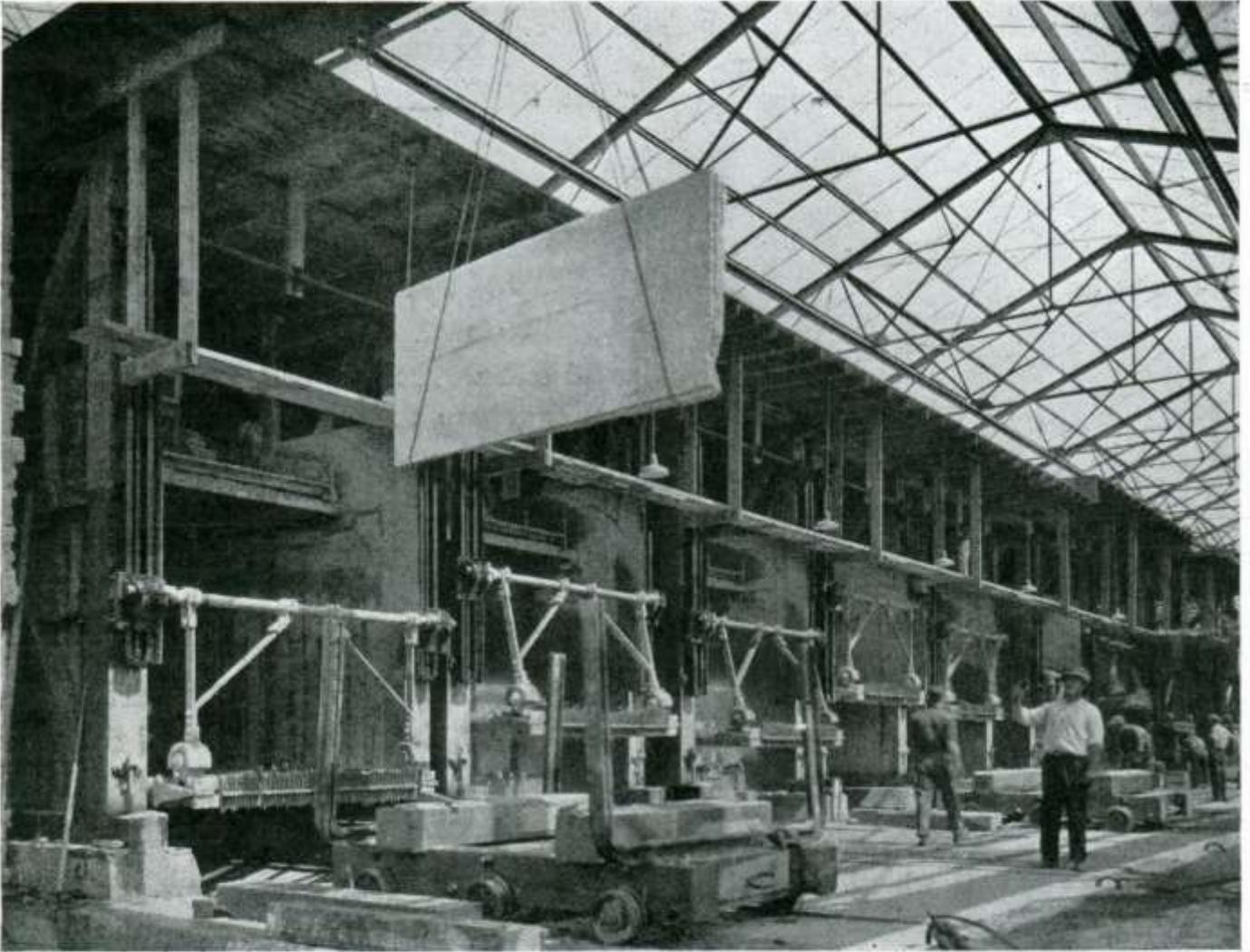
Partial View of the 200-foot Wharf of Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company's New Marble Depot, mill and storage yards in Long Island City, N. Y. Marbles from all over the world is received from lighters at this wharf.

600 feet to Vernon Avenue, Long Island City. On this site were two large brick buildings, which have been remodeled and a new steel shed erected which contains the new saw mill. One of the old factory buildings had been remodeled and with additions and the installation of machinery turned into the marble saw mill. To make room for the craneway the entire third story of one of the buildings was removed and a new roof constructed. The dimensions of this building are 50 to 250 feet and the equipment consists of nine gang saws now being operated the full twenty-four hours. Extending to the East and South of the mill proper and taking in almost all of the site up to Vernon Avenue are the storage yards for marble blocks and sawn slabs. There are two runways of a total of 950 feet, on which two cranes are operated, one of Shaw make is 15-ton and the other of 25-ton capacity. The larger of these cranes will be under cover of the main mill roof. As seen in the accompanying view of the mill and yards the new steel mill structure has yet to be roofed and enclosed with sheet metal and glass, work on

which is being pushed so that there will be no interruption to sawing operations during the coming winter season. Construction of the mill, grading of the yards and remodeling of the warehouses and wharf was started on January 1st, and the nine gang saws were placed in commission seven months later. Parts of the yards were made ready for the storage of marble blocks as early as April 1st. The gang saws are of the latest pattern, the design being the combined work of E. F. Blake, mill superintendent, and Julius Wegner of the Julius Wegner Machine Works, builders of the saws. Hoist frames and jacks for the saws were furnished by the F. R. Patch Manufacturing Company. Each saw is 6 feet 6 inches wide and so spaced as to give room for additions to the battery as occasion demands. Power for the operation of the saws is furnished by two motors driven by electricity. No other machinery is being installed, as it is the object of the Tompkins-Kiel Company to supply slabs only and in no way enter into the manufacturing business. In addition to the gang saws there are being installed two wire saws furnished by the Julius Wegner Machine Works. The office of the mill superintendent is on the second floor of the mill building, a vantage point from which all parts of the mill and yards can be seen from the windows.

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.

(photo caption) "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.

*(photo caption)* "Section of Interior of new Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company mill and storage yard, Long Island City, New York, showing some of the gang saws. Steel skeleton frame work of main mill building is seen in upper right of photograph"