

# HOG ISLAND BARREN WASTE LAND WHEN GOVERNMENT SIGNED CONTRACT FOR SHIPYARD; GREATEST PART OF CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE DURING COLDEST WEATHER IN HISTORY



HOG ISLAND'S 846 acres were covered with snow when the first keel was laid February 12, 1918. On that day the shipyard was half complete. This picture shows how the greater portion of the tract looked when the United States Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation determined to expand the original plans, calling for the expenditure of \$20,000,000, into a gigantic project calling for \$68,000,000, the mere undertaking of which astonished the shipbuilding world and brought home to Germany the realization of America's limitless potentialities in making war. The kaiser's propagandists, foreseeing the possibility of Hog Island one day outbuilding the destructive power of the U-boats, immediately began a campaign in this country tending to delay operations there and to discredit the project.



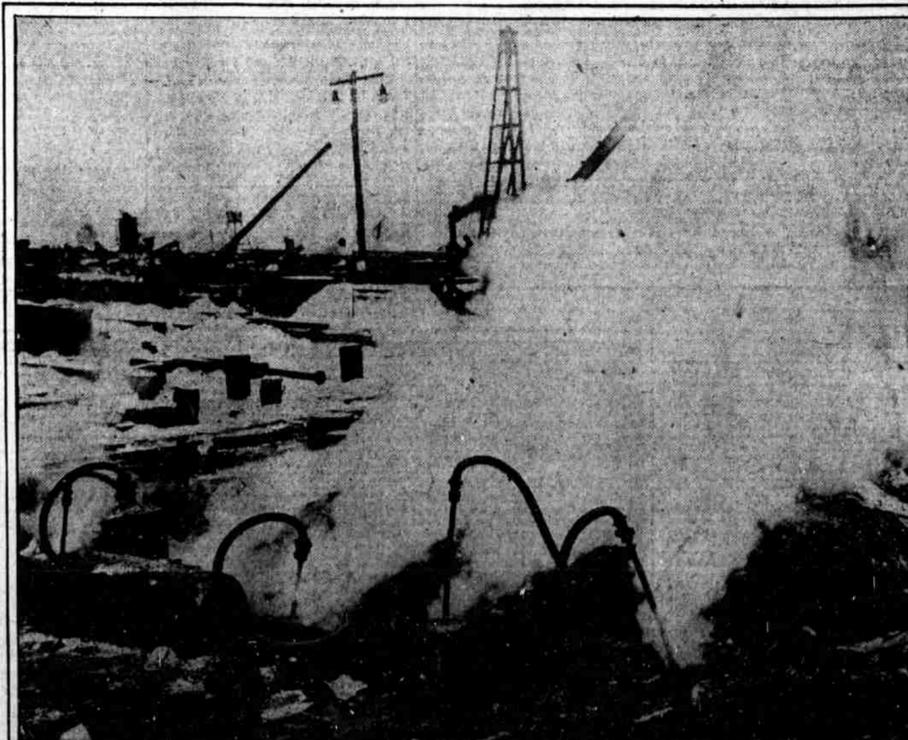
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND PILES, each 50 by 70 feet in length, were driven on which to lay the foundations for the world's greatest shipyard under conditions like those pictured above.



ICE FIELDS floating in on the tides of the Delaware in the winter of 1917-18 often interfered with dredging and excavating. When they thawed and the tides receded, they left a quagmire through which thousands of hardy workmen floundered day and night. It was difficult then to visualize the Hog Island of today, but the master minds who conceived the project kept their eyes on the blueprints and "carried on" to a finish.



SEVENTY LOCOMOTIVE CRANES were used in constructing this mighty shipbuilding machine. Here is a battery of fifty of them, drawn up for inspection preliminary to the day's work. One crane can do the work of hundreds of men, and the heaviest steel plates are playthings in their grip.



IN THE EARLY stages at Hog Island it was often necessary to employ live steam to thaw out the ground before excavations could be made. Hundreds of workmen suffered frost-bitten and frozen feet and hands.