

[April, 1947]

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Columbia, April 16 Construction work on the Powe Veneer company's new plant at Cheraw, which will entail an expenditure of between \$150,000 and \$200,000, will begin soon and the plant will provide employment for 100 workers, Governor J. Strom Thurmond announced today.

The plant will turn out high grade furniture panels and packing cases. It will be located on a 13-acre tract near the junction of the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line railroads at the southern edge of Cheraw.

The Governor said that the State Research, Planning and Development Board, of which Robert M. Cooper is Director, had done much work to assist the company in its expansion plans. He predicted that the company would ship its products throughout the country.

J. E. Powe of Cheraw and associates, are to own and operate the plant. Mr. Powe said that he had been materially assisted by the planning board in getting machinery, supplies and equipment. All necessary machinery has been ordered and will arrive in time for installation in the new building which probably will be 60 feet by 325 feet.

Mr. Powe, who with S. O. Pegues of Cheraw and Edwin Guy and J. L. Boan of Camden will own the plant, has been connected with the plywood industry for a dozen years. He and his associates operate a veneer plant at Camden.

Demand for the Powe company's products is great and orders are now on hand to absorb much of the original output. Mr. Powe expects to have the plant ready for operation before the end of the summer.

Labor for the new mill will be secured locally, he predicted, since he has found by experience that South Carolina employees have all the skill and abilities needed for manufacturing.

A railroad siding is now being constructed and will be finished in time for building materials to be hauled to the site. Governor Thurmond expressed gratification over the expansion of the Powe firm and said he was pleased over the continued trend of South Carolina citizens to build new manufacturing plants.