These images are derived from photos given NYCHS by the Hertzendorfs of Jackson, N. J.
A tug and three barges, the latter loaded with solid waste materials, are seen bound for Rikers Island. The back of the photo is stamped in red ink ‘JUL 1 1925.’
Further-from-tug barges more visible in close-up.
Men on the nearest barge seen apparently talking with men on the tug.
Line-up of barges loaded with solid waste materials to be used as landfill.

Jutting from the water: hardware for the shoal ‘cribwork’ set to hold the fill from which the ‘land’ was to be formed.
Man sits outside the barge's shack. Note: (1) ladder for access to the shack's roof; (2) shoal cribwork's above-water hardware.
Lettering on the barge spells ‘O'Brien Brothers Contractors.’ Note the many boxes making up this barge's load of fill.
Lettering on barge insufficient to determine meaning. Note the barrels and drums mixed with the boxes and other debris on barge.
Huge clawed-clam shovels work on lined-up barges loaded with solid waste materials. Jutting from the water far right: hardware for the shoal ‘cribwork’ to hold the fill.

Hand written on photo back: ‘Diggers #3 & 4 and Clean-Up diggers at Rikers Island. July 19, 1921.’
A huge clawed clam-type shovel has nearly emptied a barge of its solid waste cargo.
Smoke comes from exhaust stack as huge clawed clam shovel moves solid waste fill. Note #3 on side of operator’s compartment.
Beyond tug at landfill dock appears building with lettering reading ‘Rodgers & Hagerty,’ contractors involved Rikers development.
Note train engines, left and right above.
Note train engine, left, and above-water part of shoal cribwork, right of center.
A small mountain of trash can be seen on far right in Scene 4 as can a string of above-water hardware for the shoal ‘cribwork.’

Also visible in center is a huge clawed clam shovel in mid-air.

Visible on the far left is big plume of white steam from a tug boat.
A tug and a barge, most of its fill emptied, can be seen at the dock.
The huge clawed-clam shovel can be seen opened over fill from a barge. Note also the above-water portion of cribwork.
Shacks of side-by-side barges visible. Note also above-water portion of shoal cribwork hardware.
Perhaps the island's highest landfill mound. Note the above-water portions of shoal cribwork strung into the distance.
Note clawed clam shovel in mid-air near a tug boat.

Smoke spews from stack.
What may be a worker (but could be the top of a clawed clam shovel) can be seen above on the left side, standing in or at a rail car.
As smoke billows from a tall stack, a huge clawed-clam shovel works on barge fill. Note also part of a tug boat on right above.
A train engine can be seen on the right. Another can be made out behind some of the lifting equipment just left of center.
Scene 6 is similar to Scene 3.

But it more clearly shows a work train left of center and does not show above-water shoal cribwork hardware.

Smoke and steam are more visible.
Rail cars loaded with fill can be seen on both the left and right sides above.
A huge clawed-clam shovel works on barge.
A white plume seen emanating from a tugboat.
Smoke and more smoke fill far right close-up.
Several barges with various load levels. Written on the back of the photo: 
*Showing -- 19 Loader scows 
  2 Light " 
At diggers #3 & 4 – 
Rikers Island, July 14, 1921.*
Fill-loaded rail cars, with the engine that pushes them, can be seen on the left. What appears to be two men in the boat bow is just one man checking his longjohns on a clothesline.
1920s Scene #7: Close-up A (Longjohns detail)

Man in boat checks longjohns on clothesline.
Two men are visible at opposite ends of the barge. On extreme left, a 3rd man stands atop fill with sky as backdrop.
Having deposited fill into rail cars, an open clawed-claim shovel can be seen in mid-air between the train and the barge.
1920s Scene #7: Close-up D (Far Right Section)

Filled with solid waste nearly to over-flowing are barges waiting to be unloaded.
Hand written on back of the photo: "Fradus Contracting Co., Dredge 'Phoenix,' Rikers Island, 'Off-Shore' July 14, 1921. " A company with that name figured as a victim in a 1920 story about alleged building trades shake-downs. In 1921, it again figured as victim, this time in a dispute with the Street Cleaning Dept. involving Rikers Island ash removals.
1920s Scene #8: Close-up A (Far Left Section)

One of the rail cars loaded with fill can be seen in the background, seemingly "framed" by two smoke stacks in the foreground.
1920s Scene 
#8: Close-up B (Near Left Section) 
Can anyone identify the object seemingly suspended in air on one of the cables? It does not appear a photo defect.
In lower part of close-up, 2 men near a wheel seem to be pulling a cable onto it while above them a man appears working on machinery.
Next to lowered load of timber is that a man?
1920s
Scene #8: Close-up E (Near Right Section)

Below fill train, men work on timbers as man on boat watches.
1920s Scene #8: Close-up F (Far Right Section)

A man in white shirt (supervisor?) watches timber crew in prior slide. Note weathervane on shack roof.
1920s Rikers Landfill Scene #9: Overall View

Hand written on back of the photo: ‘Digger #3 and Clean-up diggers at Rikers Island July 19th, 1921.’

The landfill view above is similar to that in Scenes 3 & 6 but with above-water cribwork hardware more visible than in those scenes.
1920s
Scene #9: Close-up A (Far Left Section)
Rail cars loaded with fill seen on right side. Note above-water cribwork hardware.
1920s Scene #9: Close-up B (Near Left Section)

A locomotive and its rail cars loaded with fill can be seen in background.
A wheel appears part of the above-water hardware of the cribwork. A man appears to be walking atop hill of fill on the right.
Clawed clam shovel works on barge trash. Note above-water hardware of shoal cribwork.
Lettering on the big building consistent with name ‘Rodgers & Hagerty,’ a contracting firm much connected to Rikers Island development.
1920s Scene #9: Close-up F (Far Right Section)

Above-water cribwork and landfill work train.
Floating equipment at work near the waters' edge and men at work on a pier-like structure as a man on the top of the trash hill appears observing the operations.
1920s Scene #10: Close-up A (Far Left Section)

Name under top 3 windows of the floating digger rig is ‘Columbia.’

The same rig seen from behind appears in upcoming Scene #11: Close-up D (Far Right Section)
1920s
Scene #10:
Close-up B
(Near Left Section)
Address and name on the floating rig's cabin:
Pheonix Construction Company, 41 Park Row.
Five men seen building pier. Visible on the left is a 6th man – on rig, hands in his pockets -- watching the project in progress.
Two more men work on pier as a man atop the trash hill watches. Note the weather-vane on the stack roof.
A few more men working -- and one more observing -- on that pier seen in the previous close-ups.
Some of the debris that constitutes the shoreline fill hill.
'Columbia' & Pheonix rigs from different angle.
1920s Scene #11: Close-up A (Far Left Section)

A good glimpse at some of the landfill's basic ingredients -- bedding, container drums, barrels, crates, boxes, etc.
Empty rail cars stacked. Name ‘Wilson’ on side of one. Other partial letters consistent with name ‘English.’ Wilson & English Construction Co. was based at 50 Church Street.
1920s Scene #11: Close-up C (Near Right Section)

Paving stones or rough cement blocks appear neatly stacked on a loading wharf.
1920s Scene #11: Close-up F (Far Right Section)

From a different angle: (left) ‘Pheonix rig and (right) partial view of ‘Columbia.’
Because of its overall qualities, this scene was chosen as the presentation’s logo.
1920s Scene
#12: Close-up A
(Far Left Section)

Workman, hands on back pockets, stands on wood platform over water, may be talking with the fellow workman seated below in the shadows.
1920s Scene #12: Close-up B (Near Left Section)

Workman climbs as he carries a part attached to a cable. He may also be talking with a colleague seen seated on a plank in the shadows beneath the wooden platform. Note also the stone or cement blocks.
1920s Scene #12: Close-up
C (Near Right Section)
Clawed clam shovel dominates scene. A supervisor (white shirt shirt, suspenders, sunglasses, and uniform cap) eyes workmen fixing cable carried by climbing worker in prior slide.
Worker tends one of the rail engines that push the train cars loaded with fill.
‘Rikers Island’ is hand written on this Hertzendorf snapshot; tug was named ‘Sanitation.’
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