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NEW AMERICAN HOUSE FINISHED.

Work Of Moving In The Furniture Has Begun.

IT IS A SPLENDID HOSTELRY.

General Description Of The Building---Some Hotel History.

The New American House.

From Tuesday's Eagle.

A fine building is the new American House which is soon to open its hospitable doors to the general public. The work has occupied many months, but the nature of the structure rendered that necessary. Few cities in New England the size of Pittsfield have so many really excellent hotels, and it is worthy of note that they are conducted in such a manner that they are liberally patronized. Messrs. Plumb & Clark have ever been conspicuously identified with the hotel interests of the city and to them much of the credit is due for the splendid hotels of which the city can boast. The Wendell, the Maplewood and the American are directly controlled by them, and each is conducted along the same line of excellence. Much has been printed relative to the new American House, but a general description will now be in order. The full history of the establishment is printed in the last paragraph of this article.

The new American House is situated on the corner of North street and Columbus avenue, in the very business center of the city. It is four stories high, built of water struck brick with Indiana lime stone trimmings. The design is modern and the general aspect of the structure is striking. A pleasant vestibule is on the second story, over the main entrance, and the two marble columns at the front add much to the appearance of the structure. The vestibule of the main floor is extremely pleasant. The foundation walls are of sound, first-quality blue stone, laid in regular courses and bonded with one through stone in every 10 square feet of wall. The columns in the basement rest on stone blocks. The foundations under all the piers are built of large stone, the top stone being in one piece, carefully bedded. Water table and all outside steps and door sills are of Milford pink granite. All the trimmings of the front and south elevations are of buff, Hoosier Bedford Indiana lime stone of first quality and even color.

The entire basement floor of the new building is laid with cement. In the west part of the basement is a Westinghouse dynamo, capable of running 500 lights. The apparatus is of the latest design. The laundry is fitted up with a most complete equipment, patent tubs and a drying room being among the features. This laundry is 30 by 35 feet in size. Adjacent to the laundry is the cellar in which there are two boilers, one to run the elevator and the other for the purpose of heating the water which supplies the house. They are high pressure boilers and were furnished by the Bigelow company of New Haven. In the basement, also, is the barber shop which is to be in charge of Harry Lehn, who has run the American House barber shop satisfactorily for many years. The shop is wainscoted four and one-half feet from the floor with white tile, and the effect is very striking. This apartment is 17 by 28 feet in size, and access to it is gained by a flight of stairs which begin at the Columbus avenue entrance on the first floor. Numerous chandeliers will give necessary light.

The lavatories are wainscoted to the ceiling. There are six toilet rooms and five wash basins, the sills being of Tennessee marble. Directly over the basins is a long, plate glass mirror. The floors in this department, in the barber shop and the corridors are of marble. The numerous sub-cellars, which have no specific uses, will be utilized for storing purposes.

The office of the hotel has two entrances, one from North street and the other from Columbus avenue. There is a ladies' entrance on Columbus avenue. The floor is tiled with white marble. At the right of the North street entrance is the combination cigar store and newsroom which is modern in construction. The counter answers for a display case, the top and front being of glass. A large window faces North street and gives ample light. The newsroom is 13 by 25 feet in size and splendidly equipped throughout.

Around the edge of the dome in the center of the expansive ceiling is a circle of electric bulbs which, when lighted, give an almost dazzling effect. Large arched windows are in the south and east sides. Around the office and rotunda is a stucco cornice, prettily ornamented. The fire-place at the west side of the office, is laid up with Roman brick with hearths of tile. The furniture will be of the latest pattern. The office proper is finished in birch and fitted up with enunciators and electric bells connecting with all parts of the house. The desk is of hard wood, highly polished. A door leads from the office into Murphy's drug store. In one corner is the telephone box which matches the office in finish. The upper part of the box is glazed with plate glass. Directly in the rear of the office is a commodious check room.

On this floor is a ladies' reception room and a private dining room. The walls are neatly finished and the apartments are altogether bright and cheerful. Marble steps lead from the office to the dining room. At either side of the entrance is a patent hat rack. The dining room is a gem. It is finished in white pine with panelled wainscot. The ceiling is tastily decorated. The columns are of highly colored marble and give to the room an air of luxury. The furnishings are elegant. Lace curtains are to be on all the windows in this apartment.

The kitchen is fitted up with a Du Parquet range and all other modern paraphernalia. Two skylights will give light sufficient for all needs. Well ventilated and well lighted, it is in every way a model kitchen. Directly over the kitchen are the servants' rooms, several on side of a corridor which is wainscoted four feet from the floor.

Details as to the sleeping rooms are superfluous. They are 118 in number and are as pleasant as can be found anywhere. The carpets are rich and the walls artistic in their varied paperings. On each floor are several private parlors which are cozy and sunny.

J. McArthur Vance of this city was the architect of the building and Dodge & Devanny the contractors. The inside finishing was done by Champagne Manufacturing company and the inside painting and decorating by Harrington brothers of this city. The electrical fixtures were furnished by the Berkshire Electric company which in itself is a sufficient guarantee of the nature of the work. Robbins & Gamwell did the steam fitting; Fredericks of Holyoke the plumbing and Booth of this city the gravel roofing. Walls of Worcester put in the passenger and baggage elevator which is a feature of the house. The iron work was in charge of the E. D. Jones Manufacturing company. Kennedy & MacInnes furnished the carpets, Gamwell & Linnehan the shades and curtains and the A. A. Mills company the crockery and furniture.

The stores in the building are occupied by Druggist Murphy, Jeweler LaRue and the Berkshire Candy company.

SOME HOTEL HISTORY.

The truth of the old adage—"Good things come slow" was never more strikingly illustrated than in the case of modern hotels for this city. Now that Pittsfield has, at least, two first class hotels, it may be of interest to the public to briefly recall the hotels of Pittsfield for the past 100 years.

In 1798 the hotel known as the Berkshire hotel—corner of North and West street, was kept by Captain Dickinson, who was the father of the late Mrs. C. T. Fenn. In 1800, Darius Larned was the landlord of this hotel, and he was succeeded in 1810 by Captain Joseph Merrick, who continued the business until April, 1826, when Solomon L. Russell and brother, who had recently arrived in Pittsfield, purchased the property. In the fall of the same year this hotel, which was of wood, was destroyed by fire; it was at once rebuilt, of brick and was run as a hotel up to the year 1868, when it was torn down to make way for the Berkshire Life Insurance building. The coffee house conducted by Captain David Campbell stood on Bank Row, where the Martin block now stands. It flourished at the same time as the Berkshire hotel. It stands now on the east side of South street south of Broad street.

In 1808 the democrats, of Pittsfield, in order to have a hotel for that party, built, where the Thomas Allen homestead is now, a large three story building which was named the "Pittsfield Hotel", and Simeon Griswold was the first landlord. This building was sold in 1822 to the trustees of the Berkshire college, and was totally destroyed by fire in the winter of 1850.

William Clark kept a tavern in 1808 on East street near what is now Pomeroy avenue. It was in existence in 1812; how much longer is not known. Another tavern on East street was the N. G. Brown tavern. There was the Jesse Goodrich tavern and the Ingersoll tavern. The former stood on the south side of West street west of the road that leads south from West street to Stearnsville; the Ingersoll tavern stood back from North street in the rear of the Newman block somewhere near the present Jones machine shop. There was a tavern known as the Bush tavern near the Boston and Albany railroad crossing on Jason street, the first railroad crossing west of Pomeroy's upper mill. When the building that was removed to make way for the Wendell, was built, is not clear, but in 1843 it was known as the Exchange hotel, being conducted by Allen Tucker, who had formerly kept a hotel in Cheshire; later it was run by a Mr. Stevens, and in 1852 to 1855, by Mr. Heaton. It ceased to be used for a hotel sometime during or about the close of the civil war.

The opening of the western (B. & A.) railroad in 1842, attracted business north toward its passenger station, which was first located over its tracks on the west side of North street. At that time, 1842, there stood on the site of the present American House a building originally built and owned by Captain Jared Ingersoll of revolutionary fame. The history of this property is interesting because of the change in value between 1835 and the present. In the latter year Luther Washburn, who was married to a daughter of Captain Ingersoll, and who had become possessor of the Ingersoll homestead and 20 acres of land, mostly south and west of the house, sold this property to Ann Ingersoll, his wife's sister, for $2000. Between the years 1835 and 1840, the Western Railroad company acquired possession of the same land including the home. The railroad company run its road through the extreme south part of this land, and on May 16, 1842, sold the remaining land with the buildings, to Parker L. Hall, retaining a strip 25 feet wide between their passenger station and the "Washburn House," to enable them to pass to their land subsequently used as a wood lot, and today used as a freight and coal yard. This 25 foot strip was the beginning of what is today Columbus avenue. In May, 1843, the following advertisement appeared in the Pittsfield Sun: "Washington Hotel. The above home has recently been opened as a public house, and the subscriber flattrs himself that the care and comfort of the arrangements will not suffer in comparison with any establishment of the kind in the county of Berkshire. The House is situated next door north of the R. R. passenger house in Pittsfield; is conducted upon strict temperance principles, and the larder and every department will at all times be supplied with the choicest delicacies of the season. The furniture in the House is new; the stabling is of the best kinds, and in appealing to the public for a portion of their patronage, the subscriber begs leave to assure them that they may depend on civil and polite attendance and reasonable charges. A few permanent boarders will be received."

Timothy Hall.

Pittsfield, May 17, 1843.

This was the origin of the American House. Mr. Hall took a partner, Thomas J. Organ, in September, 1843, but the partnership was of short duration, and the venture was not a success under Mr. Hall's management, probably because of his "strict temperance principles." It is not certain when Mr. Hall gave up the business, probably in 1845, when George Holden took the house and conducted it until 1852 or 1853. Mr. Dutton, grandfather of Frank W. Dutton, conducted the hotel for a time, a Mr. Dunning being associated with him. In the month of November, 1860, Mr. Abraham Burbank purchased the property, and in December, 1861, sold the hotel and buildings with one acre of land, to R. D. Hicks, of Troy, N. Y. Mr. Hicks changed the name of the hotel to "American House", and conducted the hotel business until June, 1865, when he sold out to Peter and Cebra Quackenbush. The latter conducted the house about ten years, when a Mr. Gale was landlord for a year or two. He was succeeded by a Mr. Peake, A. A. Jones of Lee, a Mr. Doolittle and Thomas Parks, when Mr. Quackenbush again took possession, putting Mr. St. Lawrence in charge. The present lessees, Plumb & Clark took possession of the house in 1887.

John Howland was landlord of the Washington hotel at the breaking out of the Civil war, in April, 1861, and gave up the business to accept a commission as quartermaster in the 10th Massachusetts, volunteers, under Colonel Henry S. Briggs. Those who remember the "Washington hotel" and its sign, are few in number. The sign swung between two tall perpendicular poles near the outside edge of the walk, and had a painting of George Washington standing beside a white house. Mr. Michael O'Loughlin, one of our oldest and most respectable citizens tells that he took down one of those poles in the summer of 1ool, when the old First church was moved to Maplewood. The pole was in the way. As has been stated, Mr. Washburn sold the old Ingersoll homestead and 20 acres in 1835, for the sum of $2000. Parker L. Hall bought the same property minus the piece the railroad reserved, for $3500. Mr. Osborn purchased the same for $20,000, and Mr. Burbank paid $21,000 for it. Mr. Hicks paid for one acre, with the buildings, $10,000, and Mr. Quackenbush paid Mr. Hicks for his purchase $20,000, inside of five years. Mr. Quackenbush sold about one-third of his purchase to Samuel Bridges, in 1887, for $8000.

The need of better hotel accommodations in Pittsfield was felt nearly 50 years ago. In the month of November, 1850, a number of prominent citizens held a meeting in the Berkshire hotel for the purpose of consultation in regard to the erection in Pittsfield of a hotel having all the modern improvements, and which would meet the wants of the community and travellers. A committee was appointed to consider the subject; to obtain the necessary estimates and make known their action at a future meeting. In 1851 The Eagle inquired "When are we to have the new hotel where the United States hotel now stands?" Who thought that nearly half a century would elapse ere the question would be answered? So the old saying that "good things comes slow", is verified.

A VERY SATISFACTORY COUNCILOR

Will Undoubtedly Get a Renomination This Fall.

The councilorship is a coveted place among the political possibilities, and by a strict application of the locality claim, it would be due to Hampden county this fall. But geographical considerations have not always ruled, and there is no sound reason for their domination. The locality argument is at least only a device to feed the appetite for office with a certain degree of regularity, and so keep the animals in good temper and proper subjection. But hunger for the councilorship in this county does not manifest itself unduly this year. Meantime the 8th district has a very satisfactory councilor in Parley A. Russell of Great Barrington. e has had the office only one year, succeeding William B. Plunkett after his one term. The two fill out Berkshire's allotment. But Councilor Russell has barely had time to familiarize himself with the duties of the position. Of course, he is better fitted for service than he was a year ago, and it would be the part of good sense to nominate him. His fitness for the place will be admitted. He is a warm friend of Lieut-Gov Crane, who is booked for the governorship, and it is fair to assume—albeit we know nothing of the lieutenant-governor's views—that the next governor would prefer to have an experienced man at his elbow from this councilor district rather than a new man.

Nor would such action on the part of the republican convention be without precedent. Wellington Smith of Lee held the councilorship for one year only, and then Zenas Crane of Dalton was elected, and in due time he was given a second term by the district. Mr. Smith followed the late Rufus D. Woods of Enfield. Thus the locality argument gave way in favor of a competent man, and it may well do so again. The death of Col. Lakin of Westfield has removed the only man in Hampden county likely to make a fight for Councilor Russell's place, and it is altogether likely that this county, whose "claim" is involved, will consent to wait another year before pushing it.—Republican.

SEVERE RAIN STORM.

Col. Walter Cutting Meets With a Heavy Loss.

From Monday's Eagle.

Pittsfield was visited by the hardest shower of the season yesterday morning between 5 and 7 o'clock. The rain fell in torrents and for a time it was feared a cloudburst had occurred. The rain was accompanied by sharp thunder and lightning.

The highway about the city suffered severely and Superintendent Hatch had a force of men at work during the day repairing the damage. There were two large holes in South street near the Redfield place and another in the vicinity of the Hinsdale pasture. There was also a washout in front of the new Melville building at the corner of North and Melville streets. There were several places about the city where deep gullies were washed in the road and it will be several days before the highways will be again in proper shape. All the country roads were badly washed, particularly those leading to Hancock and Washington. An electric car became stalled in some sand that had washed on to the Tillotson line, and it took a couple of hours to dig it out.

During the storm Saturday Col Walter Cutting met with a heavy loss when nine of his fine Guernsey cows at his country seat in this city was struck by lightning and instantly killed. These cows are of the high blooded stock and were of one of the finest herds to be found in America, some of them being valued as high as $1000 each. The stroke which killed them came during the shower of the forenoon but the cows were not found until late in the afternoon, when they failed to return from pasture. They were herded together under a large tree and those farthest from each other were about 50 feet apart. They lay as if asleep and apparently had not moved after they fell. There are over 70 cows in the herd.

MAJOR WHIPPLE MADE A CAPTAIN.

Daniel Monahan, Also of the 2d Mass. Vols., Is Selected As His First Lieutenant.

From Monday's Eagle.

President McKinley has appointed Maj. Whipple of the 2d Massachusetts regiment a captain, to raise a company for service in the Philippines. The major has selected as his lieutenant brave Daniel Monahan of Northampton, who distinguished himself at the battle of Santiago. The place of second lieutenant will be offered to some officer who saw service in the other Massachusetts regiments. The major expects to fill his company with veterans of the 2d regiment.

Rev. John M. Harris, Ernest Talbot, Miss Belle Noble and Miss Mabel Wood are the delegates to the Epworth league convention in Indianapolis on the 19th. They will leave the city next Tuesday.

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