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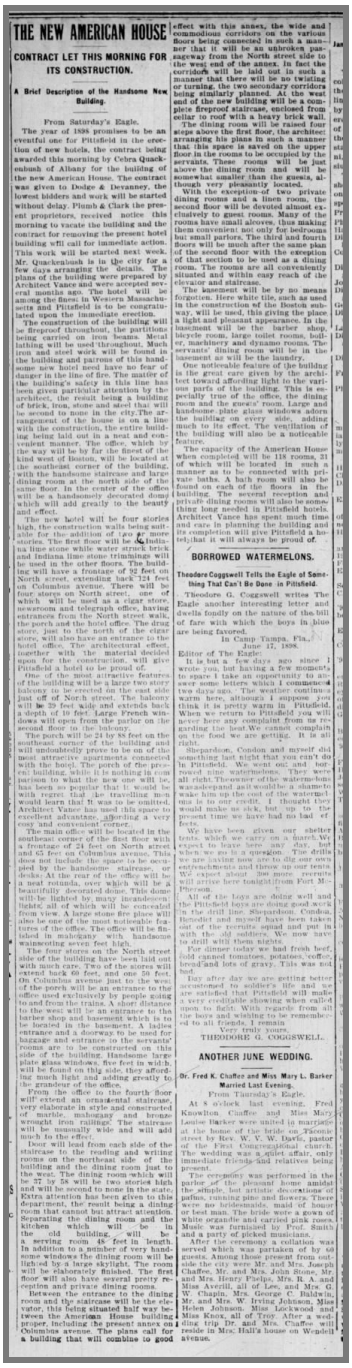

THE NEW AMERICAN HOUSE

CONTRACT LET THIS MORNING FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION.

A Brief Description of the Handsome New Building.

From Saturday's Eagle.

The year of 1898 promises to be an eventful one for Pittsfield in the erection of new hotels, the contract being awarded this morning by Cohrs Quackenbush of Albany for the building of the new American House. The contract was given to Dodge & Dewantney, the lowest bidders and work will be started without delay. Plumb & Clark the present proprietors, received notice this morning to vacate the building and the contract for removing the present hotel building will call for immediate action. This work will be started next week. Mr. Quackenbush is in the city for a few days arranging the details. The plans of the building were prepared by Architect Vance and were accepted several months ago. The hotel will be among the finest in Western Massachusetts and Pittsfield is to be congratulated upon the immediate erection.

The construction of the building will be fireproof throughout, the partitions being carried on iron beams. Metal lathing will be used throughout. Much iron and steel work will be found in the building and patrons of this handsome new hotel need have no fear of danger in the line of fire. The matter of the building's safety in this line has been given particular attention by the architect, the result being a building of brick, iron, stone and steel that will be second to none in the city. The arrangement of the house is on a line with the construction, the entire building being laid out in a neat and convenient manner. The office, which by the way will be by far the finest of the kind west of Boston, will be located at the southeast corner of the building, with the handsome staircase and large dining room at the north side of the same floor. In the center of the office will be a handsomely decorated dome which will add greatly to the beauty and effect.

The new hotel will be four stories high, the construction walls being suitable for the addition of two or more stories. The first floor will be of Indiana lime stone while water struck brick and Indiana lime stone trimmings will be used in the other floors. The building will have a frontage of 92 feet on North street, extending back 124 feet on Columbus avenue. There will be four stores on North street, one of which will be used as a cigar store, newsroom and telegraph office, having entrances from the North street walk, the porch and the hotel office. The drug store, just to the north of the cigar store, will also have an entrance to the hotel office. The architectural effect together with the material decided upon for the construction, will give Pittsfield a hotel to be proud of.

One of the most attractive features of the building will be a large two story balcony to be erected on the east side just off of North street. The balcony will be 20 feet wide and extends back a depth of 10 feet. Large French windows will open from the parlor on the second floor to the balcony.

The porch will be 24 by 88 feet on the southeast corner of the building and will undoubtedly prove to be on of the most attractive apartments connected with the hotel. The porch of the present building, while it is nothing in comparison to what the new one will be, has been so popular that it would be with regret that the traveling men would learn that it was to be omitted. Architect Vance has used this space to excellent advantage, affording a very cosy and convenient corner.

The main office will be located in the southeast corner of the first floor with a frontage of 24 feet on North street and 65 feet on Columbus avenue. This does not include the space to be occupied by the handsome staircase, or desks. At the rear of the office will be a neat rotunda, over which will be a beautifully decorated dome. This dome will be lighted by many incandescent lights, all of which will be concealed from view. A large stone fire place will also be one of the most noticeable features of the office. The office will be finished in mahogany with handsome wainscoting seven feet high.

The four stores on the North street side of the building have been laid out with much care. Two of the stores will extend back 60 feet, and one 50 feet. On Columbus avenue just to the west of the porch will be an entrance to the office used exclusively by people going to and from the trains. A short distance to the west will be an entrance to the barber shop and basement which is to be located in the basement. A ladies entrance and a doorway to be used for baggage and entrance to the servants' rooms are to be constructed on this side of the building. Handsome large plate glass windows, five feet in width, will be found on this side, they affording much light and adding greatly to the grandeur of the office.

From the office to the fourth floor will extend an ornamental staircase, very elaborate in style and constructed of marble, mahogany and bronze wrought iron railings. The staircase will be unusually wide and will add much to the effect.

Door will lead from each side of the staircase to the reading and writing rooms on the northeast side of the building and the dining room just to the west. The dining room which will be 37 by 58 will be two stories high and will be second to none in the state. Extra attention has been given to this department, the result being a dining room that cannot but attract attention. Separating the dining room and the kitchen which will be in the old building, will be a serving room 48 feet in length. In addition to a number of very handsome windows the dining room will be lighted by a large skylight. The room will be elaborately finished. The first floor will also have several pretty reception and private dining rooms.

Between the entrance to the dining room and the staircase will be the elevator, this being situated half way between the American House building proper, including the present annex on Columbus avenue. The plans call for a building that will combine to good effect with this annex, the wide and commodious corridors on the various floors being connected in such a manner that it will be an unbroken passageway from the North street side to the west end of the annex. In fact the corridors will be laid out in such a manner that there will be no twisting or turning, the two secondary corridors being similarly planned. At the west end of the new building will be a complete fireproof staircase, enclosed from cellar to roof with a heavy brick wall.

The dining room will be raised four steps above the first floor, the architect arranging his plans in such a manner that this space is saved on the upper floor in the rooms to be occupied by the servants. These rooms will be just above the dining room and will be somewhat smaller than the guests, although very pleasantly located.

With the exception of two private dining rooms and a lunch room, the second floor will be devoted almost exclusively to guest rooms. Many of the rooms have small alcoves, thus making them convenient not only for bedrooms but small parlors. The third and fourth floors will be much after the same plan of the second floor with the exception of that section to be used as a dining room. The rooms are all conveniently situated and within easy reach of the elevator and staircase.

The basement will be by no means forgotten. Here white tile, such as used in the construction of the Boston subway, will be used, this giving the place a light and pleasant appearance. In the basement will be the barber shop, bicycle room, large toilet rooms, boiler, machinery and dynamo rooms. The servants' dining room will be in the basement as will be the laundry.

One noticeable feature of the building is the great care given by the architect toward affording light to the various parts of the building. This is especially true of the office, the dining room and the guests' room. Large and handsome plate glass windows adorn the building on every side, adding much to its effect. The ventilation of the building will also be a noticeable feature.

The capacity of the American House when completed will be 118 rooms, 21 of which will be located in such a manner as to be connected with private baths. A bath room will also be found on each of the floors in the building. The several reception and private dining rooms will also be something long needed in Pittsfield hotels. Architect Vance has spent much time and care in planning the building and its completion will give Pittsfield a hotel that it will always be proud of.

BORROWED WATERMELONS.

Theodore Coggswell Tells the Eagle of Something That Can't Be Done in Pittsfield.

Theodore G. Coggswell writes The Eagle another interesting letter and dwells fondly on the nature of the bill of fare with which the boys in blue are being favored.

In Camp Tampa, Fla.,
June 17, 1898.

Editor of The Eagle:

It is but a few days ago since I wrote you, but having a few moments to spare I take an opportunity to answer some letters which I commenced two days ago. The weather continues warm here, although I suppose you think it is pretty warm in Pittsfield. When we return to Pittsfield you will never here any complaint from us regarding the heat. We cannot complain on the food we are getting. It is all right.

Shepardson, Condon and myself did something last night that you can't do in Pittsfield. We went out and borrowed nine watermelons. They were all right. The owner of the watermelons was absent and it would be a shame to wake him up the cost of the watermelons is to our credit. I thought they would make us sick, but up to the present time we have had no bad effects.

We have been given our shelter tents, which we carry on a march. We expect to leave here any day, but when we go is a question. The drills we are having now are to dig our own entrenchments and throw up our tents. We expect about 200 more recruits will arrive here tonight from Fort McPherson.

All of the boys are doing well and the Pittsfield boys are doing good work in the drill line. Shepardson, Condon, Benedict and myself have been taken out of the recruits squad and put in with the old soldiers. We now have to drill with them nights.

For dinner today we had fresh beef, cold canned tomatoes, potatoes, coffee, bread and lots of gravy. This was not bad.

Day after day we are getting better accustomed to soldier's life and we are satisfied that Pittsfield will make a very creditable showing when called upon to fight. With regards from all the boys and wishing to be remembered to all friends I remain

Very truly yours,
THEODORE G. COGGSWELL.

ANOTHER JUNE WEDDING.

Dr. Fred K. Chaffee and Miss Mary L. Barker Married Last Evening.

From Tuesday's Eagle.

At 8 o'clock last evening, Fred Knowlton Chaffee and Miss Mary Louise Barker were united in marriage at the home of the bride on Tyconic street by Rev. W. V. W. Davis, pastor of the First Congregational church. The wedding was a quiet affair, only immediate friends and relatives being present.

The ceremony was performed in the parlor of the pleasant home amidst the simple, but artistic decorations of parlor, running pine and flowers. There were no bridesmaids, maid of honor or best man. The bride wore a gown of white organdie and carried pink roses. Music was furnished by Prof. Smith and a party of picked musicians.

After the ceremony a collation was served which was partaken of by 40 guests. Among those present from outside the city were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chaffee, Mr. and Mrs. John Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phelps, Mrs. R. A. and Miss Averill, all of Lee, and Mrs. G. W. Chapin, Mrs. George C. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Irving Johnson, Miss Helen Johnson, Miss Lockwood and Miss Knox, all of Troy. After a wedding trip Dr. and Mrs. Chaffee will reside in Mrs. Hall's house on Wendell avenue.

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