

FAMOUS HOSTELRY CLOSES ITS DOORS

Fifth-Avenue Hotel to Be Torn Down.

LANDMARK OF OLD NEW YORK

Last of American-Plan Houses in Metropolis.

RICH IN ITS TRADITIONS

Hundreds of Famous Men Slept Beneath Its Roof—Political History Made in "Amen Corner"—Life-time Guests Are Homeless.

NEW YORK, April 4.—(Special.)—New York, the greatest city in America, has lost one of its most famous landmarks. The last of them went today when the Fifth-Avenue Hotel closed its doors to make room for a modern office building. And a number of persons, employees and guests, have been forced to seek new quarters after living there an ordinary life time. In its last days the famous old caravansary did a record-breaking business. Men and women from all sections of the United States registered there, and a rushing business was done in every department including the cafe.



BEEN SELLING

SPRING STYLES

COLLEGE CLOTHES

Startling—Snappy—Exclusive Styles just in—NOT THE SAME as father wore—but with all the snap and ginger of the latest college fads—Second floor—Take elevator.

Price \$16.50 to \$35

MISSSES' MAN-TAILORED COATS all new models

Price \$9.85 to \$25

Leading Clothier

Entered by Platt.

It was through Senator Platt that the "amen corner" came into existence. The Senator resided at the hotel for 25 years, in fact up to his second marriage, the period covering the time when he was at the height of his power as a political autocrat. Almost every night he could be found in one of the plush-covered benches in the southwest corner of the lobby surrounded by his lieutenants and all quarters of the state. There he rendered his decisions on matters of political moment. Some reporters finally described the session as Platt's Sunday school class. Another writer added to this by humorously remarking that it was a well-defined because Platt always gave the orders, and his associates merely said "Amen." From this the "amen corner" sprang into life. And although a new group of politicians has appeared, many of whom have never heard or have forgotten the legend, and a few of whom will say "Amen" to any party boss, the "amen corner" remains a fixed tradition in the history of New York.

Members of the "amen corner" organization are not exclusively Republicans, as might be imagined. But every one is a man who is sufficiently interested in politics to discuss it in the lobby of the old fashioned hotel at Broadway and Twenty-third street.

No Home Yet Chosen.

The "ameners" will guard these benches carefully. Some day they may allow them to blossom in the corridors of another hotel. At present there are numerous candidates, but the "ameners" are from Missouri. They must be shown that a new political headquarters has appeared. At present there is none in sight. The oldest guest in the hotel remained until the last possible moment. Then he walked outside arm in arm with Mr. Darling, one of the lessees, and turned at the Broadway door to take a last farewell look. There were tears in his eyes as he did so, and he was not a bit ashamed of it. This person was Nathaniel Whitman, a bachelor, who is in the wholesale dry goods business. He is expected in the hotel on February 7, and wanted a "nice room" for a few months.

He finally picked out Nos. 65 and 66, a suite overlooking Broadway. And the few months he had here in a few years, and finally into almost half a century.

"I fully intended of it here, but they wouldn't let me," Whitman said to some friends in the lobby. "There is an atmosphere here that no other hotel I know of possesses, and I doubt if there ever will be another one of the Fifth Avenue kind. It is a place where you can sit and quiet, and perhaps that is why so many old people like it so much. And then, as do most old people, I hate this la carte dining. All eyes in New York have strayed, trying to find some place like it, but without result. Now I am to locate in a new-fashioned hotel, where the orchestra plays all the time, and every body works and shines and diamonds. I know I will not enjoy it, but what can I do? It seems to me that they are tearing me down along with the old hotel."

Some Ancient History.

Up to last Summer, General Charles E. Furlong was the oldest resident of the Fifth Avenue. Every day he spent several hours in the "Amen Corner" and was one of the best-known figures in the place. Then he died. Two other old timers of the same kind were about the same time. They were Major Hanscom of Montana, and Major Sterling of Mississippi. During the Mexican War they were fellow aides of the late General Winfield Scott. During the rebellion they fought against each other. In 1865 Major Hanscom took up his residence on the fifth floor of the Fifth Avenue. Three years later Major Sterling was assigned quarters a few doors away. From that date until they died last year they were inseparable.

All the battles of the Mexican and Civil Wars were fought over and over again in the lobbies of the hotel. Each proved daily where the other one was wrong and to hear them one would think they were bitter enemies. Yet Major Sterling lived less than three months after Major Hanscom had passed away, and during that period had practically nothing to say to anybody. The death of his old comrade was a blow he could not stand.

One of the best-known employees of the Fifth Avenue is Thomas Gray, who for 25 years has been the head waiter. In that time he has looked after the comfort of more distinguished guests than any other waiter in the whole world.

Hotel's Famous Guests.

Here are a few of them: Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Harrison, Cleveland and McKinley, while they were in office and

LAMENT LOST GLORY

Platt and Depew Bid "Amen Corner" Farewell.

BOAST OF FORMER POWER

New York Senate Members Make Speeches at Last Gathering of Politicians in Old Fifth Avenue Hotel.

NEW YORK, April 4.—At midnight tonight the Fifth-Avenue Hotel, one of the most famous hostels of the city, ended its existence of half a century, but not until old-timers had once more sat in the plush-covered seats in the "amen corner" and had once more breathed an acquiescent "amen" to the words of the "amen boss," whose political plans, there promulgated, gave the spot world-renown.

In the old days Tom Platt was secretive. Tonight he confessed that the "amen corner" had "made and unmade Presidents."

Chauncey Depew spoke with caution when a part of the inner circles in days gone by. Tonight he fairly boasted that he had known Governors "who thought they did things from the executive chamber, but they were done from the 'amen corner'."

Platt Talks to Crowd. After 49 years' life as a hotel, during half of which time it served as headquarters of the Republican party of the state, the house is to be torn down to make way for a modern office building.

Another Landmark Doomed. Another landmark that passed away at the same time as the Fifth-Avenue Hotel is the Madison-Square Theater, which occupies part of the same land, all owned by the Eno estate. This house was famous years ago as the home of the Palmer Stock Company, including such well-known thespians as Maurice Barrymore, Alexander Salvini, Annie Russell, Marie Roszoga, Harry Woodruff, Augustus Crooks, father of Edward Crooks, and others under the management of the late A. M. Palmer.

Attell and Sullivan Matched. SAN FRANCISCO, April 4.—Champion Featherweight Abe Attell and Brooklyn Tommy Sullivan were tonight matched to fight rounds in this city on same date in the latter part of this month, to be definitely decided on later. The fight is to be a substitute for the Flynn-Kaufmann fight, which has been called off. The men are to weigh in at 125 pounds at 5 o'clock on the day of the fight.

Confirms Sturgess' Sentence.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The President today confirmed the sentence of dismission imposed by court-martial in the case of First Lieutenant Dexter Sturgess, Third United States Cavalry as a result of his confession of financial irregularities and false statements.

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REICHTAG PASSES THE ASSOCIATIONS BILL.

Law Prohibits Use of Foreign Languages in All Public Meetings.

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THE DEBATE on the section lasted throughout the day and until nearly 11 o'clock tonight. The discussion was sharp throughout and went on amid continual agitation and interruption. The house was fairly evenly divided, the so-called "blacks" supporting the government against the opposition of the Socialists, the Poles and the center party.

THE RESULT of the house's action has been awaited with intense interest throughout the empire, owing to the fact that it affects 4,500,000 non-Germans, comprising the Poles in the eastern provinces, the Danes in the north and the French in Alsace-Lorraine. In addition to the less important races not speaking German, the Wendes, the Maurians, the Lithuanians and the Czechs.

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