PORTLAND AUDITORIUM WILL BE DEDICATED ON WEDNESDAY MORNING

Spacious Public Structure Is Completed After Nearly a Year of Construction Work

WILL FILL GREAT NEED

Portland Auditorium Building to House Music Festival This Week, N. E. A. Convention Next Week.

A small army of workmen who have been laboring almost a year on Portland's new auditorium will begin laying down their tools this week, after the completion of a task of which they may well be proud.

The auditorium is completed, or so nearly so that most of those who visit it in the next few days won't be able to find the raw places. And on the morning of July 4 the citizenry that has contributed to its erection is invited to the simple ceremonies dedicating the building to the service and hospitality of Portland.

The auditorium fills what has been more than a long felt need in this city. It is the solution of a problem that has more than once proved embarrassing to the municipality.

The auditorium is the fulfillment of a desire that has existed in the city for 20 years or more. The sentiment began crystallizing at the time of the Lewis and Clark exposition in 1905. The plans began to materialize in 1913. Construction was actually started last year.

The structure covers an entire block at Third, Second, Market and Mill streets. The major portion of the building is three stories above the basement, and one portion, where measurement can be made in stories, is six stories high. Its cost will be slightly under $600,000, depending ultimately on the amount in extras allowed the contractors. The building was financed by a bond issue of $600,000. The land on which it stands was donated to the city approximately 70 years ago for market purposes.

Structure Is Dignified.

The architectural style is classic. It is distinctly tasteful and pleasing. In type the building is monumental and dignity stands forth in every angle. The combination of buff brick, Wilkeson stone base, terra cotta trimming and green metal work is particularly alluring.

The true attractiveness hardly appears, however, until one steps inside. Then the visitor is apt to become enthusiastic. The interior is inviting to the utmost. The high flat ceiling, the huge, deep stage, the immense proportions of the auditorium proper with its vast seating capacity are inspiring.

The auditorium seats, as a theatre, 3527 persons. With the two side halls, north and south, thrown open, the normal seating capacity is 5200. Its maximum capacity is probably 1500 more.

In addition to this, the building houses an immense exhibition room in the basement, for automobile shows, land shows and the like. Upstairs, on the second and third floors, space provided for the city hall and the Oregon Historical society museums will be ample for many years to come. In addition there are a kitchen and pantry for banquet purposes. The stage is probably the largest in the northwest, and to the north of the stage six stories of rooms are devoted to the necessities of stagecraft, dressing rooms, rest rooms, rehearsal quarters and the like. This is designed to accommodate productions, local or otherwise, in which hundreds of people take part.

Full Use Provided.

At the north grade line there are entrances to two sets of public shower baths for men and women and comfort stations.

Every convenience conducive to allowing the greatest use of all these facilities is afforded. For instance a broad driveway inclines from Second street to the basement by which supplies and exhibits may be transported into this big exhibition hall.

Everything was designed in fact with the view of making fullest use of the structure. The north and south halls and the stage are built at exactly the same elevation. At a cost of $26,000, a movable wooden floor has been constructed, to reach from the stage over the parquet almost to the rear. When the use of this floor is necessary, in case of large banquets, balls or the like, a few seats toward the rear of the dress circle will be removed. The seats down front are sufficiently low, because of the floor incline, that they will not have to be disturbed.

The movable floor is then placed. The stage, the major portion of the parquet and the two halls then become one vast room, three quarters of a block in area. The removal of these auditorium seats is made easy by a bar arrangement locking whole sections together. They may thus be quickly taken out at small expense. The cost of installing this floor and taking it out each time will be $700, it is estimated.

The south hall will be frequently utilized for banquet purposes. It is very large, and at the east end has a dumb waiter and other equipment for serving. In the basement beneath the east and a splendidly equipped kitchen has been built. Culinary supplies will be in the pantry situated under the north hall.

Under the kitchen, in a sub-basement, is the auditorium heating plant, switchboard room, and the pipe organ motor room. At the northeast corner of the basement, complete living quarters for the janitor and his family have been provided, and there are also several stage dressing rooms.

Main Entrance on Third Street

The main entrance is on Third street. The doors extend almost across the Third street face and there is an entrance for automobile parties under a porte cochere at the southwest corner. One first enters the ticket lobby, a spacious marble faced room, which in turn is flanked by the foyer. French doors connect the lobby, foyer and then the auditorium. There are a dozen entrance passages.

At the north end of the ticket lobby is situated the office of the manager, and at either end are men's smoking rooms, women's rest rooms and check rooms.

Stairs on the north and south sides lead to the second floor. One enters the lower balcony from this elevation, and around the front and sides are numerous exhibition rooms. Over the two halls on the first floor are similar sized exhibition quarters. Those at the south are for the Oregon Historical society, which is to have 6500 feet of floor space.

Similar rooms on the north sides are for the city hall museum. Several smaller exhibition rooms on the west side will be used for museum and other purposes when needed.

The museum halls are finished in white, and are well lighted with windows. The second floor has the balcony, cloak and rest rooms.

Ascending the stairs still further, one comes to the third floor on which are the upper balcony entrances. This upper balcony, by the way, is simply a continuation backwards of the lower balcony, from which it is completely separated. There are more exhibition rooms on this floor, to be used in part for the same museums.

Stage Completely Equipped

If one wants to go still higher, he has to go back of the stage, ascending the northeast stairs. All the dressing rooms and stage accessory space are north of the stage. There are 16 large dressing rooms altogether, in addition to property rooms, a male chorus dressing room on the third floor, and up under the room on the sixth floor, a large rehearsal room.

At the back of the upper balcony is located the motion picture operator's booth.

The stage is very large. It has an opening between the prosceniums of 50 feet. A broad orchestra pit is in front. Back of the arch, the stage dimensions are 50 by 80 feet.

Suspended from the roof are the fly galleries and the gridiron. An asbestos curtain has been installed, and last week the carpenters completed the movable standards to be used on the stage for choral work or other shows in which many persons take part. The pipe organ lofts are at either side of the proscenium arch.

The auditorium proper is lighted with five huge brass chandeliers from the ceiling. The auditorium is democratic and has no boxes. The diamond circle will have to content itself with seats in the parquet.

The architectural commission for the auditorium was in the hands of the firm of Friedlander & Seymour of New York. The general ideas were formulated by J. Andre Fouilhoux, of the architectural firm of Whitehouse & Fouilhoux, and the New York designers left the construction entirely to the local firm. The general contract has been in charge of Hans Pederson of Seattle. L. H. Hoffman has been in charge of construction for the city.

Plans for Dedication

The program for the dedication of the auditorium next Wednesday morning will be in the hands of the Royal Rosarians. The Rosarians will be aided by the Monday Musical club and the Daughters of the Confederacy, two of the organizations that worked hard to secure the building for the city.

Dedication exercises will be at 10:30 o'clock. The auditorium will be decked in the national colors. The music will be furnished by the Rosarian band and quartet and there will probably be a parade from the business district to the auditorium at Third and Market streets.

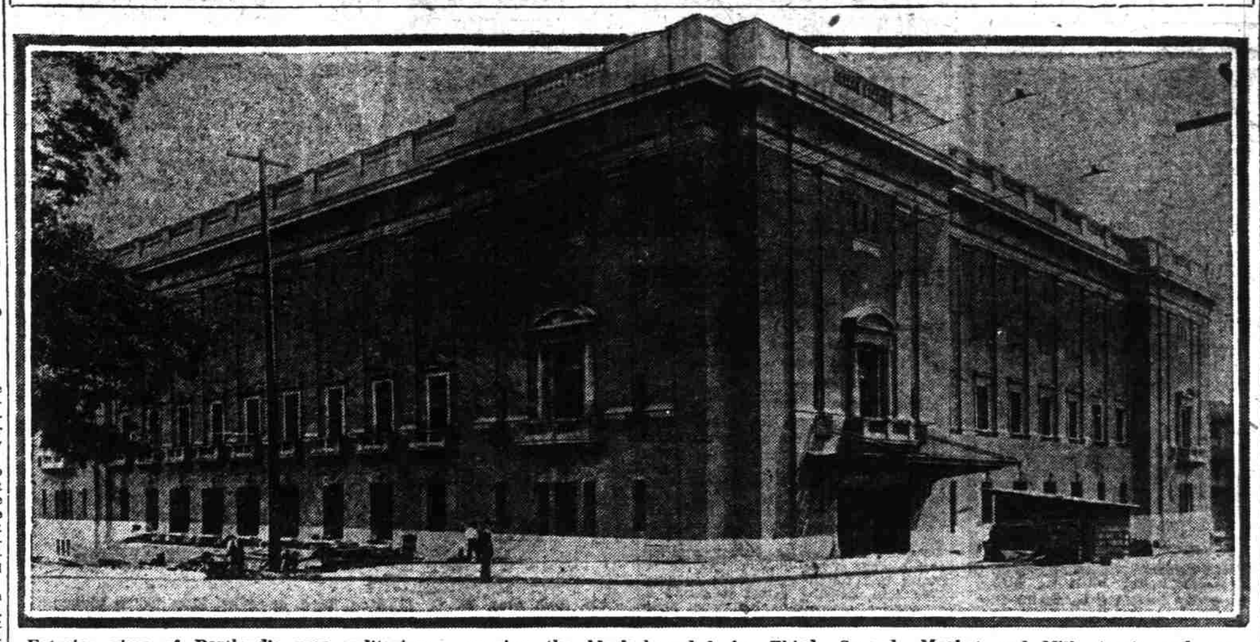
The dedication will be one feature of the Fourth of July celebration being planned for the city. It was set for the morning in order that the crowds expected to attend will have time for lunch and then the patriotic parade at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The program will open with the singing of a number of patriotic songs. Afterwards Hans Pederson, the building contractor, will present the auditorium keys to H. R. Albee, retiring mayor. Mr. Albee is now sojourning at the beach, but will return to Portland for the dedication.

A reading of the Declaration of Independence will be followed by an address from Mayor George L. Baker, who will give the history of the auditorium and tell of the things for which it is intended. Musical numbers will end the program. Afterwards the building will be open for general inspection, and the public will be allowed to go all over the structure from the files and gridiron over the stage to the sub-basement, where the power plant is located. The siderooms will be thrown open in anticipation of a large attendance at the dedication ceremonies. There will be no charge.

The dedication will be followed by the music festival Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and the auditorium will have active use the following week at the convention of the National Education association.

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM READY FOR PUBLIC OCCUPANCY



Exterior view of Portland's new auditorium occupying the block bounded by Third, Second, Market and Mill streets and constructed at a cost approximating $600,000 (photo by Gifford & Prentiss).

Mayor Baker Sets Forth Uses for the Auditorium

Fact of Public Ownership and Convenience to Be Emphasized in Wide Range of Purposes Which Spacious Structure Will Serve.

The site of the municipal auditorium at Third and Market streets, has an interesting history in connection with the growth of the city. It has been the property of the municipality almost since the time of the first city charter, more than 70 years ago.

It was called the market block on the first city map, published in 1853, a single copy of which is now in the archives of the Oregon Historical society. The actual donation of the land was made late in 1848 or early in 1849 by Stephen Coffin and W. W. Chapman.

At that time the block was at the extreme edge of the village, and it was dedicated by Coffin and Chapman for market purposes.

Later the Coffin title was transferred to the city, and in time the city paid the Chapman heirs for their equity, the city thus receiving a title in fee simple for the land.

For some time the land was rented for residential purposes and as a floral garden. In the early '70s the Mechanics Fair building was erected there, and it was used for fair purposes until 1888. The building was then Portland's public auditorium, for all the big public meetings were held there, and when General Grant visited Portland in 1876, he spoke there and was entertained at a public reception. It was the scene of many of the big balls in the early days. Still later, Mechanics Pavilion was the site of many famous prize fights. The building degenerated down the line to hack and express stables, and after being torn down about 1900, the property became the site of a wood yard. The block in fact was used for almost every purpose excepting the one for which it was originally intended.

It was first talked of as an auditorium site in 1905, and the sentiment thereafter continued to increase until the present building became a reality.

Bond Issue Authorized in 1912

The charter amendment for the auditorium bond issue of $600,000 was adopted March 22, 1911, and on June 11 at a special election the measure passed by a substantial plurality. Mayor Joseph Simon appointed the auditorium commission June 15. It consisted of W. D. Fenton, J. R. Weatherbee, Hugh Hume, T. B. Wilcox and Phil Metschan Jr. In August the council authorized proceedings to set aside the market block for the auditorium.

An architectural jury of award was chosen in October, and on the last day of the same month awarded the commission to J. H. Friedlander and A. D. Seymour of New York. About this time considerable agitation for a change of site came up, and it was almost decided to place the building on the east side. In December the council authorized the sale of the bonds.

Another proposition to authorize additional bonds of $350,000 failed in November, 1912. Early in January, 1913, the council approved the contract with Friedlander & Seymour, and at the same time formally designated the market block as the site.

Members of the auditorium commission resigned in the summer of 1913, and the commission was abolished by the present council August 27. In the summer of 1915 J. Andre Fouilhoux was sent throughout the east visiting other public auditoriums, and late in the fall the letting of contracts started. The general contract was awarded to Hans Pederson of Seattle, February 23, 1916, the excavating contract was let to Giebisch & Joplin, and September 14, 1916, the cornerstone was officially laid.

Mayor Baker was active in getting the auditorium under way, and has followed its construction very closely. Many of the conveniences in the building were planned at his suggestion, and the idea of the removable floor to extend over the parquet for conventions and other functions originated from a similar plan used a number of years ago at a charity ball in the old Marquam theatre.

Purposes of the Auditorium

The purposes for which the auditorium are to be used are explicitly stated by Mayor George L. Baker as follows:

"It will be the meeting place for all public conventions and functions. It will be dedicated to the widest use possible for public benefit. It will not be used for theatrical purposes in the sense that any man or group of men will realize a big profit. If there is any money to be made, said Mr. Baker, it will go to the city. It is hoped that the auditorium will be self-sustaining.

It is probable that the city will go into the booking business for big productions, like the grand opera or appearances of the New York Symphony orchestra and so on. Moderate prices will be the rule. There will be plenty of seats for everyone, and there will be accommodations for every man's purse. The auditorium will not be operated as a competitor of private theatrical interests, but it will be used for the big things that are obviously out of the field of the other theatres.

"I will be on the job all the time and see that no one suffers, and at the same time see that no one unduly profits from the auditorium," said Mr. Baker. "I know the theatrical business thoroughly, and will use that knowledge to administer the new building."

For the present, Mr. Baker said, he will manage the auditorium, but later a manager will have to be appointed.

Home for Historical Society

After years of struggle and endeavor, the Oregon Historical society, with the completion of the municipal auditorium, is coming into a real home.

Three big rooms and several smaller rooms for storage on the south side of the second floor will be used by the historical society for its museum. In all it will have 6500 feet of floor space.

The priceless records of the society at present are crammed into small quarters in the Tourny building, Second and Taylor streets. Some of the articles in the state collection, of which George H. Himes is curator, are actual records of the very earliest history of the Pacific coast.

For years the records have been watched day and night and every precaution taken against fire. The menace of possible destruction has been a nightmare with Mr. Himes, who has spent years in assembling the collection, in which, for example, there are 700 bound volumes of old newspapers, including the first papers published west of the Rockies. There is enough more newspaper material at the historical society to make 4000 volumes.

In a few days Mr. Himes will begin assembling and moving the collection to the auditorium, and it will probably be safely housed in the auditorium by the middle of August.

CONFEDERATE LODGE MEN APPRECIATIVE OF NORTHERN HELP

Incident of Long Ago Recalls Feeling Which Actuated the Odd Fellows.

In 1861 the sovereign grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows met, with delegates from nine state grand lodges absent. The Confederate States of America sent no delegates. Nothing was said about the rebellion of these states. It was thought that, in common with other fraternal and religious organizations, the Odd Fellows of those states would split off. At each succeeding sovereign grand lodge the delegates were simply marked as absent. In 1865, however, that body met in Chicago. Cordial invitations had been sent to the grand lodges of the seceding states, forced back into the Union, to be represented.

All of the Southern states were represented, but some of them borrowed the money to get to Chicago with and some walked part of the way and went by steamer as far as possible to save expenses. In the morning of the first day the last seat was filled by a weary ex-Confederate officer who had lost an arm. The motion was made that these delegates be seated and that the per capita dues from the states of the South for the four years preceding be remitted. It carried unanimously, and the sovereign grand lodge of the I. O. O. F. went into a wild outburst of enthusiasm as the 16 Southern delegates arose and bowed their thanks.

The one-armed delegate from the South had some lunch in a handkerchief, and after the enthusiasm had subsided he proceeded to invite a fellow delegate to share it with him. A big Northern delegate grabbed the meager store and threw it out of the window. "We will have a fraternal dinner for the whole crowd!" he shouted, and everybody accepted the invitation. The little money those Southern delegates had might just as well have been Confederate bills, for all the good it did them after that in Chicago. The unity and fellowship, the regard and care shown by the Odd Fellows of the North to the Odd Fellows of the South at this meeting took on substantial form in many ways and aided greatly in restoring the spirit of "one country, one flag, one humanity," throughout the entire once war torn republic.

There were but 96 delegates at that sovereign grand lodge, and they represented 160,000 members. Today the order has 1,600,000 members. Of all the 96, but one man is alive today—namely, W. H. Barnes, a then Georgia printer, now residing in San Francisco, and for over 60 years a publisher and editor of I. O. O. F. magazines, books and rituals.

Elks Plan to Keep Soldiers Smiling

Santa Monica, Cal., June 30.—(P. N. S.)—Announcement that the Elks lodges of the United States will inaugurate a campaign to raise $1,000,000 for the soldiers in the field was made in Santa Monica today by Frank Stewart, past exalted ruler of the Santa Monica lodge, who will leave tonight for a meeting of the grand lodge in Boston.

He said that he would introduce resolutions before the grand lodge asking that the million dollars be spent for the amusement of the soldiers.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP IS FIRST REQUISITE TO GOOD SALESMANSHIP

Edward T. Timms Makes Address Before Convention of Rexall Druggists.

"To be a good retailer, first be a good citizen and next be a druggist," said Edward T. Timms, prominent Portland business man, to the delegates at the Rexall Druggists' convention, which met at the Imperial hotel Thursday. He spoke of the cooperation of the business men in the Red Cross drive, and urged all men to take an active interest in the affairs of their community, for that in itself was a prime qualification of a good business man.

Mr. Timms represented the Commercial club at the morning meeting of the convention Thursday. He was followed by several officials of the Rexall company, who made short addresses. In the afternoon a lengthy business session was held at which views as to selling articles and other discussions of interest were held. In the evening the convention assembled at the "Sultan of Sulu."

Today's sessions are mostly dealing with business subjects, especially the condition of the retailers in relation to the war. At 7 o'clock this evening there will be a banquet at the Imperial hotel which all of the 125 or more delegates will attend.

American Bank Sees Prospects in Russia

San Francisco, June 30.—(U. P.)—Harold J. Dreher, special commissioner of the National City bank of New York, with a corps of assistants, arrived today en route to Russia.

Believing a great period of development is bound to follow Russia's reorganization, the National City bank has determined to "get in on the ground floor" and is sending Dreher to establish a banking institution in the new democracy through which the American financiers can participate in Russia's prosperity.

Seaboard Air Line Wreck Kills Two

Norfolk, Va., June 30.—(I. N. S.)—Two persons were killed in a head-on collision on the Seaboard Airline today, according to messages reaching here. The location of the wreck and other details were not given.

The following material for the

AUDITORIUM

was furnished by us—
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(None better—none so good)
KINNEAR STEEL ROLLING DOORS
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Duplex Alcazar Range Demonstration Week

Displays of Rugs, Reed and Kaltex Furniture

SPECIAL—This week we offer new arrivals in genuine Ostermoor Mattresses, full 50-lb., regularly priced $25, at the very special price of $18.95
See Window Display

Rag Rugs Reduced

Regular $2.25 Rag Rugs, 36x72, reduced to *$1.70*
Regular $1.50 Rag Rugs, 30x60, reduced to *$1.20*
Regular $1.25 Rag Rugs, 27x54, reduced to 95c

Sale of Porch Rugs

Regular $2.25 Crex and Kaltex Grass Rugs, 36x72, reduced to *$1.70*
Regular $1.65 Willow Grass Rugs, 27x54, reduc'd to *$1.35*

Exhibit and Special Sale Axminster Rugs

$35 Saxony Axminster Rugs $26.85
—A specially selected lot of 12 staple patterns in high quality Rugs, 9x12 size. Based upon today's mill price, these rugs would retail for $37.50. Not only do we maintain the former price, but this week we offer them at a substantial reduction. We invite your inspection of these rugs.

$28 Seamless Axminster Rugs $21.75
—These are also first quality Rugs, 9x12 size, and they are worth more than our regular price. We offer them this week at a tempting reduction.

$18.50 Brussels Rugs $13.25
—We show these Rugs in a number of attractive patterns, in 9x10:6 size. Reduced in price for this week only.

Kaltex Furniture

For Porch and Lawn Specially Priced

—$12.00 Kaltex Porch Rockers now at *$7.85*
—$12.00 Kaltex Arm Chairs, with continuous roll... *$7.85*
—$14.00 Kaltex Round Tables, 36-inch, at *$10.65*
—$9.00 Kaltex Square Tables, 24-inch, at *$6.75*
—$7.00 Kaltex Lawn Arm Chairs now at *$5.25*
—$13.50 Kaltex Telephone Stand and Chair *$8.95*
—$2 Kaltex Porch Stools *$1.65*
—$4.50 Kaltex Hanging Baskets now at *$3.25*

Sale of Bath Rugs

Regular $3.50 "Gloucester" and "Atlantic" Bath Rugs in 36x60 size, colors brown, green, pink and blue. Reduced now to $2.75
Regular $4.00 "Saratoga" Bath Rugs in 36x50 size. Reduced to $3.10

—On our Balcony Floor are displayed many beautiful pieces in Reed, Willow and Rattan furniture in old ivory finish. You are courteously invited to make leisurely inspection of our exhibit. One or two pieces of this attractive furniture adds a touch of refinement to the home, besides being extremely serviceable and lasting.

Reg. $97.75—William and Mary Dining Suite Special $75.00

—This is a beautiful suite in solid quartered oak, Jacobean finish; it consists of Dining Table with 45-inch top and 6-foot extension, $27.50; five Dining Chairs to match, full box, with leather slip seats, $5.50 each; Carver to match, $9; Buffet with French plate panel mirror, $34.25. The suite is handsomely finished; it will be an ornament to the dining-room.

$10 Down—$6 Monthly

Regular $135.50—Mission Dining Suite Special $85.00

—This suite is of solid quartered oak in fumed finish. It consists of the following: Dining Table with 48-inch top and 6-foot extension, $29.50; Buffet with French plate mirror and glass panel doors, $55.00; six Dining Chairs to match, full box, leather upholstered, $8.50 each. The suite is rich and massive in appearance, durably constructed.

$15 Down—$6 Monthly

If It's Anything in Rugs, Furniture or House Furnishings, You'll Find It at Jenning's!