

EMPRESS HOTEL ALMOST READY

G. P. R.'s Magnificent New
Hostelry Will Open in the
Near Future

No Pains Spared in Effort to
Provide for the Comfort
of Guests

While not begun, nor so far as the finishing touches to the furnishings are concerned, completed during the year 1907, yet in view of its limitless importance to Victoria, and of the fact that it is so nearly finished that the formal opening cannot now be delayed more than a few weeks, the Empress hotel, that tremendous western monument to the enterprise of the Canadian Pacific railway, may well be considered one of Victoria's most significant facts of the past twelve months. That great transportation system, the main artery of Canada's well being, which is the only one on the continent of North America to link the Atlantic and the Pacific, has now at either gateway a fitting emblem of the hostelry and wealth of this land of promise, and the new Empress is a not unworthy companion to her historic sister, the Chateau Frontenac, on the Heights of Abraham.

The construction of this great structure, now complete at a cost of about \$100,000, has been watched with intense interest from the day when the causeway having been completed, the C. P. R. contractors began to sink clusters of piles twenty-five feet in length to bedrock to make sure the foundation upon which the great building was to rest. A recent visit to the sub-basement of the hotel gave an idea of the tremendous strength required of the foundation, which consists of series of great triangular masses of concrete over twenty feet square at the base. The foundation alone cost \$100,000, for the C. P. R. builds for all time, and newly made ground entails careful and costly work.

A great modern hotel is a complex and wonderful thing, and sometimes very beautiful. In the case of the Empress one hardly knows which is most worthy of notice, its beautiful site commanding our lovely harbor, the architectural beauty of the external design, the cultured artistry of the spacious halls, the extraordinary ingenuity of the mechanical labor saving devices and contrivances for the furtherance of the comfort of the guests, all in turn make exhaustive demands on ones applause and appreciation.

Ground Floor is Striking.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the hotel from a spectator's standpoint is the ground floor, on which the office, lounge, palm room and dining room are found. With the immense kitchen out of sight at the back of the building, entering by the porte cochere at the south end of the building, the visitor finds himself in a magnificent oak paneled hall, designedly patterned after the ancient baronial halls of the great mansions of England. Carved oak paneling extends up the walls to a height of about ten feet, the ceiling, done in yellow, is very heavily beamed with oak timbers terminated at either end by small carved medallions representing the beaver, the lion, the crown or the thistle. Great pillars sheathed in oak and with massive, carved oak capitals support the ceiling, the whole effect being one of artistic strength, coupled with solid wealth. A great screen of carved oak divides the office from the palm room, but terminates in time to leave an uninterrupted coup d'oeil through the spacious hall beyond. The fixtures in the office are all of the same weathered oak, as are the paneling and fittings of the cosy manager's room just off the office. But in the midst of this reproduction of old world splendor, the twentieth century, emphatically asserts itself. In large quantities of elaborate private telephone exchange communicating with all the rooms of the building, while those two recesses with the heavy oak paneling in reality public telephone booths. Conspicuous, too, is a massive safe specially made for the hotel by J. & J. Taylor, containing numerous small safe deposits, which will be at the disposal of guests, thus relieving the management of the care of the valuables of visitors. Before going on to the rotunda, or lounge room, as the management prefers to style it, a visit to the ladies' sitting room will repay the trouble. Leading from the office, with the entrance close to one of the two massive oak staircases, is a most enchanting room. The walls are paneled high with oak, and there is a superb, heavily carved oak mantel, with the ceiling in elaborately patterned relief. The color scheme is artistic and restful, grey and pink being the prevailing hues. Round the walls runs a broad frieze of chubby cupids, and on the floor lies a beautiful grey carpet, tufted with a pattern of pink roses. The curtains are pink, and the furniture grey, with Rose du Barry seats, which, like all the furniture in the hotel, was made to order for the enterprise. The windows look out over the harbor, and a more delightful retreat would be hard to find in any public building.

Rotunda and Dining Room.

The rotunda, or lounge room, is of immense size, extending fully half the entire length of the hotel. It is light and cheery with its numerous windows overlooking the harbor, and on winter evenings the two great fireplaces should render it equally home-like. The striking features of this immense hall are the pillars, done in white, which run through the place in stately rows. Each pillar boasts a double band of beaten brass, from which depend four electric light fixtures. These were specially designed by the Montreal architect of the company and depict each a Rocky Mountain sheep's head with a light in a round ground glass bowl upon each head and another in a pear-shaped glass hanging from the mouth. Between the rows of pillars are other brass chandeliers in which the sheep's head again figures. They are both quaint and artistic and when lit up the hall makes a brilliant scene.

Back of the rotunda is the palm room, a large apartment done in green with a circular dome of Oriental glass surmounting it. The pillars here are twined around with vines, and with the handsome furniture has a luxurious, exotic air. The dining room is perhaps the most

splendid of the different rooms. It lies along the north end of the hotel, and the prevailing color is that rich red which goes so well with cut glass, silver and spotless napery. The wood used is all imported, the ceiling with its heavy beams and the massive pillars being all of Australian rosewood. This to the uninitiated looks not unlike mahogany, though the grain is different and lends itself equally well to decorative work as this room can testify. The great beams which cross the ceiling at close intervals are the most richly carved. The pillars are plain but on the ceiling there are scrolls, arabesques and fancy figures covering the entire surface of the beams. This treatment contrasts with the reliance on line and absence of florid work which characterizes the rest of the building, and is both rich and beautiful. The floor is of Australian red and a wood whose hardness makes our hard woods seem soft and which ruined many a plane before it was properly laid.

Basement is Fitted Up.

Outside the dining room door is another massive carved oak staircase, before ascending, the basement will repay a visit. From the north, the visitor first enters the grill room, a large handsome apartment with rows of pillars through it. This room is not yet finished, but will be completed at leisure when the rest of the hotel is open. The management promises to have the finest grill in the coast, and so far as appearance goes they will have no difficulty in making good their boast. Passing through the oak bar at the end of the grill room a magnificent bar room is seen. The bar and fittings are of oak stained dark with a greenish tinge, made from sketches supplied by Stewart Gordon, the manager. The place is thoroughly up-to-date with asbestos cement floor quite impervious to moisture. On the walls is a French paper with grapes and leaves thereon. The bar itself is provided with a mechanical refrigerator, taps innumerable and all imaginable appliances.

Going down the passageway from the bar, the billiard room is reached. The room is divided by a double row of pillars with two of Rattenbury's finest carved mantelpieces, one at either end, made of carved oak and Roman brick. There will be three English billiard tables and two American, which will be lighted by massive oak chandeliers carved in early English style and suspended from the ceiling by chains.

Bedrooms in Mahogany. The bedrooms are all furnished in mahogany of special design, save the bedsteads, which are beautiful satin finished brass. Everything has been specially made to order even to the design of the C. P. R. design worked into it. The carpets are all green Kidderminster, a crown being the salient feature of the pattern. The "Empress" idea is thoroughly carried out throughout and the emblem of the crown is constantly to be seen. Every door is of Australian rosewood and outside each door is a specially designed mat, there are double doors between all communicating rooms and a reading lamp at every bed. In fact nothing has been forgotten in the thousand and one little devices which go to make up the luxurious life of an up-to-date hotel. The furniture was all supplied by the Canada Furniture Company, of Berlin, Ont., and the copper curbs in the bedroom fireplaces, of which there are many, come from Birmingham. There are three steel and stone staircases and four fire escapes from each floor, so, when the magnificent fire protection service is taken into consideration danger from fire is completely eliminated. One of the many thoughtful arrangements is the fitting up of the ends of the large halls on the bedroom floors as sitting rooms. They have plenty of light and will undoubtedly be greatly appreciated. There are five of them and each one is fitted with a public telephone. On the sixth floor are the rooms of the help which include a pleasant recreation room. It is possible that some of these rooms will be used as guest chambers, for which they are well fitted. There are in all 160 guest chambers. There are four electric Otis elevators of the latest type in the building, so a storey or two more or less will make no difference to the visitors.

Ingenuity in Kitchen. The kitchen is a great exemplar of the ingenuity requisite for the proper filling of the inner man at short notice and in large quantities and also of the supreme necessity of absolute cleanliness in the modern practice of the culinary art. The Empress' kitchen is 30 feet long by some feet wide, and is floored with cement, slightly graded towards the centre where there is a gutter and drain. All the kitchen furniture is elevated on metal feet eight inches high so that the place can be hoisted out every night without disturbing the fixtures. Save the drain, there is no resting place for the cook-roach. All the kitchen furniture was supplied by the French New York house of Duparquet, Huot and Monseu. There is a huge range 27 feet long, as well as two charcoal covered with a metal hood made locally, in which electric lights are set at short intervals throwing the best possible light on the cooking. There are also two 50-gallon soup kettles lined with tin, applied by a patent hand process, three vegetable steamers and one Manhattan steamer. All of these utensils are carefully ventilated with pipes which carry off all the fumes which might taint the more dainty comestibles being prepared near by. There is, too, a large vegetable sink and a pot washing sink. The dishes, as will shortly be seen, wash themselves.

An important section of this department is the service pantry. It has a table in the centre of which hot water stands always ready, and among other appliances are the toaster, wafer, griddle maker and the inevitable refrigerator. The most interesting of all is the automatic egg boiler. This has a clock attachment. You set the clock and place the egg in a tiny basket hung on the end of a miniature crane. At the time appointed, whether you are not at home or not, the arm comes up and the egg waits suspended in the air till the attendant is ready to remove it. The patent dishwasher is another contrivance which should not be forgotten. It is simple, and is commended to the attention of the over-driven housewife who defined Heaven as a place where dishes washed themselves. They do so at the Empress. After being scraped, the dishes are placed in a large metal basket which is carried by a little crane and lowered into a compartment full of hot water thoroughly impregnated with soap and soda kept in motion by a revolving fan. After a few seconds the crane lifts the basket out and dips it again into an adjoining compartment full of clean and furiously boiling water. In a very short time the basket emerges again with clean dishes, and so hot that they dry themselves in a few seconds. This machine has a capacity

of six thousand dishes an hour. Another section of the kitchen is occupied by the "garde manger" with its capacious refrigerator where salads, cold meats and such things are kept. Next comes the larder, the room of the kitchen with an enormous oven and two sinks of its own. Here is the pastry cook's private refrigerator and ice cream freezers and storage places.

Kitchen Basement

From the kitchen one descends by a lead filled steel stairway, on which a foot can hardly slip, to the basement. Here by the door is the steward's receiving room, and then comes one room after another filled with the large refrigerators, all supplied by the Eureka Refrigerating company, of Toronto. The butcher shop has its own refrigerators for meat, chicken and fish, the steward has others for cream, fruit, etc., with the vegetable refrigerator close by. This storeroom also has the waiters' locker room, bath room and lavatory, three large dining rooms for the help, baggage room, lavatory, sample rooms and so forth.

Below this again the explorer reaches the sub-basement, where the stranger is in danger of being lost. It stretches seemingly into great distances, and as a matter of fact extends under the whole building. Here hidden away in convenient places beside some of the monstrous concrete masses which come peering up from the foundations, are the cellars and store rooms. The steward's store room, the china room, the glass room, the barkeeper's store room with a trap door going up to the bar, the potato cellar and the coal cellar are all to be found here. Here, too, are the service elevators and the great coils of the brine pipes of the ice plant. For the big hotel makes its own ice as well as its own water, the latter being all condensed from steam from the boiler plant, a process which is too rigorous for the most persistent and hardy of men.

Through the Tunnel

This completes the hotel proper, though there is still more to be seen. A dark underground passage way is discovered which seems very strange in place under the baronial hall described above. However, there is nothing sinister about it, and nothing more dangerous than dirty clothes carried through it. The passage is the big cement tunnel joining the hotel with the laundry and power house about 150 feet away.

The laundry is well worth a visit. Here a white shirt can be washed, dried, starched and ironed ready to put on in fifteen minutes. Everything in it is driven by electricity, with a separate motor to every machine. There is first the washer, then the shaker, next a shaking table, next a huge mangling machine, and lastly a great New York hotel, and the whole of the room, the clothes, it must be understood, being conveyed automatically from one machine to the other. But the ironing, or rather shirt pressing, machine is the most interesting of all. The shirt is placed on a pad, a lever is pressed and immediately a great flat iron, the size and shape of the bosom of a shirt descends and with one mighty squeeze irons the shirt front. Next to it are similar machines of different shapes, which with one squeeze each iron the yokes, collars and cuffs. The irons are heated by electricity and all the machinery supplied by the Watkins Laundry Machinery company of Cincinnati. There are also numerous ironing tables, each with its electric iron in a neat bracket on the wall.

Before this acquisition by the C. P. R. this building belonged to the British American Paint Works, but it has been repainted and remodelled out of all recognition and a huge smoke stack added to carry off the smoke from the power house engines. These engines, on part of the ground floor, but upstairs part of the building has been set aside for the help, which will number about 140, and is divided off into large, clean airy bedrooms, two being reserved for the chief. One wing is still unappropriated, and there are also a number of sample rooms with private telephones in addition to those provided in the main building.

Big Power House

The power house is a complicated establishment, but admirably calculated for the varied work it has to do. There are three 75 kilowatt generators supplied by Allis-Chalmers of Milwaukee, a marvel switchboard from the same firm and one of Hall's high speed automatic engines for light and power. For the ice making plant there are two 39 h.p. ammonia compressors from the Lindberg Refrigerating company and three 105 h.p. boilers from the Victoria Iron Works to supply the immense amount of steam required for the various engines and the heating plant. The Clean Pump Works have supplied a special fire pump. This pump is connected with the city mains and can throw three big streams over the top of the huge building. It is also connected with every floor of the hotel, where the fighting apparatus is liberally provided. There is also a Webster heater and a Webster vacuum pump from Dowling Bros. of Montreal. The pump takes the return water from the radiators, heats it with steam and sends it back to work again in the boilers. Thus the big generators supply its own electricity both for lighting purposes and for elevator power, provides its own protection, makes its own ice and condenses the surplus steam, thus securing a plentiful supply of the purest water for drinking and cooking purposes.

Space is also reserved in the power house for the installation of a dustless air cleaning machine. This will be connected with every room in the hotel. All that will be necessary will be to remove the plug in the room, and clean the carpet with the compressed air, the dust being sucked back into the power house where it goes to help out the fuel in the fire boxes. All the pipes and wires go through the tunnel to the hotel. The tunnel is 10x12 feet and carries besides pipes no less than sixteen power and light cables.

Complexity and Beauty

This may give some idea of the complexity as well as the beauty of the great hotel. Designed by F. M. Rattenbury, and constructed by the C. P. R. at a cost of three-quarters of a million, the finishing touches and the interior arrangements are now completed under the superintendence of Stewart Gordon who will manage the huge establishment. Besides being a practical up-to-date hotel man, Mr. Gordon has no mean artistic capabilities. His sketches formed the originals of a good deal of the decorative work, and his skill as a draftsman and designer is further shown by the clever cover drawing he has provided for a publication now being gotten out for the hotel. The great hostelry will be opened to the public this month, when Victorians will have a chance to see for themselves what taste and wealth combined have succeeded in accomplishing for the most attractive hotel on the Pacific coast between Alaska and Peru.

MAMMOTH
JANUARY SALE

CAMPBELL'S

MAMMOTH
JANUARY SALE

MAMMOTH SALE

Commences 9 a.m.
Today



Our smart costumes and matchless coats at tremendous reductions, will be the centre of attraction today, whilst you are securing those bargains here are other golden opportunities to be found in our show rooms

Commences 9 a.m.
Today



Ladies' Night Dresses

WHITE AND STRIPED FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES. Regular price \$1.00. Our Sale Price85c
HEAVY WHITE FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, nicely ruffled. Regular price \$1.25. Our Sale Price90c
WHITE FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, embroidery trimmed. Regular price \$1.40. Our Sale Price\$1.00
PRETTY WHITE FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, lace trimmed, silk embroidered. Regular price \$1.75. Our Sale Price\$1.25
WHITE AND CREAM FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, trimmed with silk embroidery and ribbon. Regular price \$2.00. Our Sale Price, \$1.50
EXTRA GOOD WHITE FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, trimmed with fine lace and embroidery. Regular price \$2.25. Our Sale Price, \$1.75
VERY EXCELLENT WHITE FLANNELETTE NIGHTDRESSES, daintily trimmed with silk embroidery and lace. Regular price \$3.00. Our Sale Price\$2.25

Underwear

LADIES' VESTS AND DRAWERS, in white and natural, fleece lined. Regular price, per garment, 40c. Our Sale Price25c
LADIES' VESTS AND DRAWERS, in white and natural, extra fine fleece lined. Regular price, per garment, 75c. Our Sale Price50c
LADIES' VESTS AND DRAWERS, in white, special fleece lining. Regular price, per garment, 60c. Our Sale Price35c
ON THIS TABLE we have heaped up a large number of sample Suits of Ladies' Vests and Drawers, very reliable goods, in cashmere and all-wool. Regular price, per garment, \$1.25. Our Sale Price60c

Hosiery

CAMPBELL'S BEST SILKETTE LADIES' HOSE, high spliced heels, strong double soles, Hermsdorf dye. Regular price 35c. Our Sale Price25c



Hosiery

CAMPBELL'S CASHMERE HOSE, seamless, absolutely fast dye, black and tan. Regular price, per pair, 35c. Our Sale Price25c
CAMPBELL'S LLAMA HOSE, seamless, guaranteed fast dye, black and tan. Regular price, per pair, 60c. Our Sale Price50c
CAMPBELL'S LISLE HOSE, Hermsdorf dye, double sole, extra high spliced heels. Regular price, per pair, 50c. Our Sale Price40c
TRANSPARENT LISLE HOSE, spliced seams, double soles, extra high spliced heels. Regular price, per pair, 60c. Our Sale Price50c
EMPIRE LISLE HOSE, lace ankles, all colors. Regular price, 60c. Our Sale Price50c
SPECIAL BLACK CASHMERE HOSE, silk embroidered fronts, worth every lady's attention. Regular price, per pair, 60c. Our Sale Price50c
SPECIAL LACE FRONT CASHMERE HOSE, something extra smart and good. Regular price, per pair, 60c. Our Sale Price50c

Flannelette Drawers

In White and Cream, nicely ruffled. Regular price 50c. Our Sale Price35c
In Pink and White, prettily trimmed. Regular price 60c. Our Sale Price45c
In White, hemstitched ruffles. Regular price, 70c. Our Sale Price50c
In White with deep embroidered frills. Regular price 90c. Our Sale Price75c

Flannelette Underskirts

In White and Cream, nicely trimmed, deep flounce. Regular price 90c. Our Sale Price75c
In White, trimmed with embroidery and insertion. Regular price \$1.25. Our Sale Price90c
FANCY FLANNELETTE DRESSING GOWNS, blue, red, pink, cardinal etc., fitted with large collars.



Dressing Gowns

IN FANCY FLANNELETTE, blue, red, pink, mauve, cardinal, fitted with large collars. Regular price \$1.75. Our Sale Price\$1.25
LONG KIMONA ROBES, in red, purple, navy, and mauve designs, trimmed with Japanese floral braid. Regular price \$2.75. Our Sale Price\$2.25
VERY HANDSOME EIDERDOWN ROBES, with large roll collars and shoulder capes. Regular price \$8.75. Our Sale Price\$6.75
CASHMERE DRESSING GOWNS, in art mauve shades with pleated collars trimmed with lace. Regular price \$8.25. Our Sale Price\$6.10
CASHMERE DRESSING GOWNS, in pale blue, art gray and black, fitted with large collars, broad lace trimming. Regular price \$7.00. Our Sale Price\$5.00
VERY ELABORATE DRESSING GOWNS, in old rose and reseda, elegantly trimmed with lace and fitted with short ruffled sleeves. Regular price \$12.50. Our Sale Price\$9.00
EXQUISITE DRESSING GOWNS, in gray and art blues, fine lace yokes, lace ruffles and deep lace edged collar. Regular price \$15.50. Our Sale Price\$10.00



Dressing Jackets

We offer you a charming variety, new arrivals in comfortable eiderdown, etc. All very tastefully trimmed and finished.

All at regular price \$1.75

Sale Price \$1.25

All at prices ranging from \$2.75 to \$3.75

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A Splendid Assortment; this Season's Smartest
COATS AND FROCKS ALL AT HALF PRICE

Misses' Coats All at Half Price

Children's Hose All Much Reduced



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No Goods Charged

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Sale Terms Cash
No Goods on Appro