

DOMINION HOTEL AGAIN ENLARGING.

Proprietor Steve Jones Decided Upon Completion of Block.—Unsurpassed Accommodation for Guests.

The Victoria "Colonist" of March 9th says: Once again the order has been given to the contractors by Proprietor Stephen Jones of the Dominion—"give me more room," and in the course of the next day or so ground will be broken for still another extension of this big and popular hostelry, not to meet any anticipated "rush," but to accommodate an existent and steadily developing trade. The contract has been signed with Mr. James Baker, and the new wing, which will complete the main building into a perfect square, will according to calculations be finished and furnished prior to the 24th of May, at a total cost of about \$15,000. Mr. E. C. Howell, under whose supervision the stately pile of British Columbia's Parliament buildings rose to completion, is the designer of the new Dominion block, while Architect A. Maxwell Muir is to oversee the work during its progress.

Mr. Jones is (and has a right to be) proud of his success in his chosen calling. It is exceedingly doubtful if any American Beniface has made a greater success of his business, not through "luck," but by intelligent study of the wants of the travelling public, enterprise, and strict attention to his own interests. The Dominion has grown and developed phenomenally, but he has made it do so. In 1876, when the Dominion was originally established by the late Mr. Stephen Jones, Sr., it was a very humble, unpretentious structure with accommodation for perhaps fifteen guests. An addition was put up a few years later, which gave in the neighborhood of 35 rooms all told. When Mr. Jones, the son, took charge of the house in May, 1889, it was a frame building, neither pretentious nor very comfortable, capable of sheltering 35 or 40 guests.

This did not suit his ideas of what a Victoria hotel should be, and in the following August, 1890, he had ground broken for the original brick structure, at that time one of the largest and most complete hotels in the city. But times have changed rapidly, and Mr. Jones is not the man to see his own affairs stand still while the city moves. In the decade following there were three chapters of reconstruction, and after each a growth of solid trade justified the conclusions upon which enlargement had been undertaken. The removal of the old frame annex at the rear and side to make room for the present addition marks the complete disappearance of the original premises, and the perfection of the new Dominion—an all brick, fire-proof structure of four flats, 65 feet in length, with a width of 42 feet, and perfect in the modernity of its equipment and appointments.

When the present reconstruction is complete, there will be, on the ground floor, a handsome central court, 40 feet long and 16 feet in width, cement floored, and finished with a pretty fountain, rustic seats and a profusion of palms, climbing vines and flowering plants—an ideal lounging place on a summer's day—and communicating directly with the roomy and well equipped main office. The kitchen will have a floor area of 22 by 30 feet, with two immense ranges

and plenty of working room for a staff of ten. Attached to this kitchen will be a bakery, provided with an oven of the most up-to-date type; while the enlarged dining hall—reached through the pantry—will offer ideal facilities for large banquets, as well as for ordinary service of guests.

Down on the basement floor, with an area of 600 square feet, will be installed an immense steam-heating plant on the single-tube system; as well as ample storeroom accommodation, with both dry and refrigerating chambers.

Prominent features of the upper, or guests' rooms floors, are to be three large and handsome main stairway landings, and the circular promenade hall, six feet in width, extending completely round the large building. By it—and the alternate staircases—absolute immunity from fire danger is secured; although to make assurance doubly sure, a fire alarm system is installed as well.

The completion of the new section of the house will make the Dominion one perfect block, with a gain of some 35 guest-rooms and the enlargement of others, to give a total of 100 apartments, every one an outside room, well lighted and well ventilated. The present design is not so much to increase the number of rooms as to improve their quality, and make every guest chamber in the house thoroughly suited to the demands of a first-class trade. The majority of the gained rooms—upwards of 30—will be conveniently arranged en suite, provided with private bath rooms and furnished in a fashion unsurpassed in the province.

It is a subject of pride with the owner and proprietor that he will have the only hotel in the North West, and one of the very few in Canada, containing 100 rooms, not one of which are above the third flat. The new Dominion, when Contractor Baker leaves off his work, will be a solid, harmonizing block, thoroughly modern in every detail of construction, equipment and furnishing, and with unsurpassed accommodation for 250 guests. Besides the best and latest return call, lighting, heating and sanitation systems, it will be provided with the Allan-Hussey telephone service, from the office to the several sections of the house and the principal rooms—being indeed the second hotel in all Canada, and the first in the Pacific North West, to adopt this thoroughly up-to-date convenience.

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