



THE NEW NINTH STREET OPERA HOUSE.

Its Builders, Furnishers and Decorators.

They Together Have Built in Kansas City the Finest Amusement Palace in the West.

The new theater, now in course of construction on Ninth street near Broadway, will, when finished, be known as the Ninth Street opera house.

A representative of this paper visited the theater last week and found among the network of scaffolding the frescoers and other artistic finishers putting their farewell touches to the dome and high sides of the wall.

Mr. Oscar Cobb, the well known theater architect, of Chicago, says that it will be the finest finished theater in the West, and local lovers of high class entertainment may look forward with pardonable pride and anxiety to the opening, which will occur on the 24th of this month with a big scenic production produced last winter for the first time with tremendous success at Washington, D. C. It will be new to this city.

Seventy-three feet have been added to the rear of the original theater lot, which gives a splendid stage room. The stage will be the largest but one in the city, and is commodious enough to produce any migratory production in this country. The dressing rooms for the players have been made an especial feature. There will be five luxuriously appointed star rooms on the stage, with hot and cold water in each, and eight more under the stage on a level with the street, all furnished with exits and well heated and ventilated. The scenery now in course of construction by the well known artists, Fassett & Farris, will comprise seventy-five different sets, which will make the most complete equipment outside of New York city. Some idea may be obtained of the immensity of the quantity, when one considers that over five miles of rope will be strung in the rigging loft when the scenery is all placed.

The entrance will, of course, be on Ninth street, and will be elaborately decorated. The side walls will be finished in panels, in

Jerome Fedell is the best known artist in his line in the city, having executed the designs in the city hall and many of Kansas City's finest buildings.

The interior decorations of the vestibule and entire interior in relief were made of fibrous stucco and was manufactured entirely in this city. The public has scarcely an idea that such a firm is in business in this city, and it is the coming decoration for interior relief work. This speaks highly of the artist, Mr. W. H. Jennens, of 1616 Grand avenue, who designed and executed the entire work. The plaster for this stucco is an article of domestic production.

The wiring in the building was done by Mr. L. C. Bair and is in every way perfect. The ceiling design for lighting is original with Mr. Bair and is the same of perfect incandescent lighting for theaters, halls, etc. The engine is an automatic high speed engine of 100 horse power. The Erie City iron works makes a specialty of engines for direct power for dynamos. The generating apparatus consists of two Ford-Washburn dynamos, which were constructed especially for this theater. The capacity is 600 lights at 240 amperes, each at 110 volts.

The builders' hardware was furnished by the Richards & Conover Hardware Company, who have furnished some very original and unique designs in the way of door plates, hinges and door fastenings, which are composed of the very finest quality of material.

The entire building was plastered with Acme cement plaster, the most perfect material in the world for use on public or private building, where a thoroughly reliable and indeluctable wall is required. Sold only in Kansas City by Thora-Hallwell Cement Company, 107 East Tenth street.

J. W. Mason, dealer in general electrical supplies, furnished all of the electrical supplies, etc., used in the building, and is very well satisfied that everything pertaining to the lighting of the building will be

considered that over five miles of rope will be strung in the rigging loft when the scenery is all placed.

The entrance will, of course, be on Ninth street, and will be elaborately decorated. The side walls will be finished in panels, in delicate tones, and will each be an original design. On the right will be the ladies' parlor and toilet room; in charge of a maid.

The parlor will be luxuriously furnished. The tastes of the fair sex will find no cause for complaint in the general arrangement. The gentlemen will also be well provided for. A smoking and toilet room has been placed for their convenience on the left of the lobby. The exits are many and were built on the latest scientific methods, and

will be operated by an automatic lever, controlled on the stage, by electricity, so there is no possible danger of a panic. An electric plant of two 400 light dynamos and one 100 horse power engine is now in place and besides light will furnish power for the noiseless fans to be used for providing thorough ventilation and circulation of pure air. The boiler room has been constructed fire proof.

Lack of space will not permit a detailed description of the interior of the theater. Suffice it to say that the same artistic designs will be observed there as elsewhere, and it goes without saying that local theatergoers—who are expecting something handsome will find their expectations gratified.

Middleton Bros. were the contractors who did the plastering work and have finished in a very substantial and satisfactory manner one of the best jobs of plastering work which has been done in this city. The Middleton Bros. are now at work on the new high school building, which will soon be completed and ready for use. They do the best workmanship of any plastering firm in the city and always enjoy a large patronage.

The interior decorations and frescolongs are the finest of any theater this side of the Mississippi river. They were executed by Jerome Fedell, who, with a corps of skilled artists, have displayed much skill and artistic taste in their original designs and beautiful and artistic executions. Mr.

Cement Company, 107 East Tenth street. J. W. Mason, dealer in general electrical supplies, furnished all of the electrical supplies, etc., used in the building, and is very well satisfied that everything pertaining to the lighting of the building will be first-class.

Mr. N. O. Weaver has charge of the stage and construction of the scenic apparatus, and personally superintended every article used on the stage from gridiron to traps. Mr. Weaver will be the stage manager of the new Ninth Street opera house, and is a man who is fully conversant with his duties and has had charge of the stages of some of the largest and finest houses in the country.

All the lumber used was furnished by the Bruce Lumber Company, who have furnished the best line of lumber that was ever placed in any building. They manufacture their own lumber direct from the timber, owning and controlling the largest sawmills and planing mills in use.

The artist, N. A. Ferris, who has designed and executed the painting of the curtain and scenes, is an artist of high merit whose equal is not found in the West. The curtain is a work of art which cannot be duplicated in any theater west of the Mississippi river and will be the recipient of much praise from the art critics.

The contract for placing and the construction of the boilers for the heating apparatus was let to the Palmer boiler works, of this city, and was superintended by Mr.

Fred Palmer, the junior member of the firm. The artistic draperies and furniture used in the furnishings and decorations of the boxes and stage were furnished by the well known firm of Bullens-Moore, Emery & Co., who have spared no effort in making their selections so as to please the most fastidious in point of elegance and artistic design. The work was done under the supervision of Mr. Jerome Rice, whose artistic taste cannot be surpassed.

The iron work and castings used in the building were furnished by a well known local institution, the Keystone iron works. The iron girder placed over the proscenium arch is the largest ever used in this city, making it absolutely safe and no danger of falling walls.