

A GREAT EDIFICE.

The Finest Mercantile Structure Upon the Coast.

WEINSTOCK, LUBIN & CO.'S STORE.

Representative Workers and Supply Firms.

Something About the Artisans Who Had to Do With the Erection and Fitting Up of the Building.

The most imposing, the largest and the best appointed, and most graceful and attractive mercantile edifice of both wholesale and retail character upon the Pacific Coast, is that of Weinstock, Lubin & Co., of this city. The structure, now nearly completed, a picture of which is given herewith, is a novelty in all respects. It is a radical innovation upon all conventional rules concerning the form of business buildings, in this, that though nearly 141 feet by nearly 161 feet, it is but one room (saving only the basement story).

This immense hall, with its lofty ceilings, sixty-five feet above the main retail floor and supported by eighteen sphinx columns, is surrounded by three tiers of galleries. The first is devoted to the storage of goods; the second to the filling of mail orders; the third to school-rooms, offices, luncheon, etc.

Level with the main gallery run six steel bridges from outer and inner side, converging upon a mighty column in the center. These are used also for the storage of stock.

The basement floor is by sixteen feet on two sides larger in area than the main retail floor, since it takes in the space beneath the sidewalk on the north and south sides of the building.

This basement floor contains the retail section in part, the time-room with its host of compartments for the use of the 402 employees, the power room, the electrical motor for the elevator lift, the toy department and many other departments of the business.

The exterior, as will be seen by the accompanying picture, is very imposing. It is massive in its style and yet not severe, for it is relieved by its graceful tower, its ornamental fire walls, its arched openings, its arches and columns and by its magnificent arcade. This arcade is made by eight graceful arches, seven on the front—springing from enormous cast-iron pillars that, in two sections, descend to the basement floor. The central arch forms the entrance to a driveway, and is 22 feet wide by 35 feet in height.

Ten feet back from the arches is the main floor front, which is covered by two immense show windows, the largest of the Mississippi, and at once the handsomest. It will be seen that between these show windows and the arches there is a broad, sheltered promenade, and that, by a novel design, awnings are done away with, and yet better shelter given from rain or sun than any awning can afford. The walls and ceiling of the beautiful arcade are richly decorated, as will be seen by reference to a more detailed description in one of the sub-articles of this article, and the entire construction, and give some account of the work of all the chief artisans and material men, whose labors in skill and strength contributed to the erection of this splendid structure.

The building, aside from its beauty, novelty and artistic adaptation to the uses for which it is intended, is remarkable also from the fact that it was begun almost in midwinter, took nearly a year to complete, and, in the meantime, around the old structure, where all the time thousands of people were, six days in the week, passing in and out, and hundreds of employees were engaged in receiving, selling and shipping goods. Yet the workmen in all that time did not occasion any stoppage of business, or incur a single complaint, and the departments were moved about, consolidated, adjusted and readjusted, as the artisans worked here and there, in a way to enable sections of the building to be completed and moved into, without any interruption of business. Indeed, Weinstock, Lubin & Co. did a larger business during that period of a year than in any other time in the year before when no building was going on.

The idea of erecting, and such a method of construction, originated with the firm. It was scouted by some, declared impossible by others, and pronounced a general failure by those who were told what was proposed. W. H. Hamilton, the architect of the building, had faith in the scheme, however, and refused the counsel of those who were supervising architect converted the plan into reality. Mr. Hamilton had as consulting architects Wright & Saunders of San Francisco, and the architect of the California Bridge Company, as consulting engineer, several times thoroughly examined the structure during, and after, completion, and expressed the critical opinion that it is one of the best built, strongest, securest and safest structures in the United States. Architect Hamilton, here from Utica, N. Y., twelve years ago, and has in that time planned and supervised the erection of many of the most prominent buildings in the city, and has built up an extensive business outside of the city also.

To properly describe the building and set forth all its features would take some command, since the purpose of the Record-Union in this article is to give a general idea of the contractors, supply men and others who had to do with the erection of the structure. Our readers will be glad, however, that by referring to the articles, which refer to these artisans that a very clear idea of the extent, character and beauty of the building will be gained.

We utilize a few lines to say, however, that whoever visits the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building will find time most pleasantly spent, and that the view from the upper gallery, maintained for juveniles and employees, to the toy department on the lowest floor.

The Contract and Contractors. We venture to say that never before in the history of the Pacific Coast—possibly not in the history of the United States—was such a contract undertaken as was assumed by Sprague & Elliott when they signed to erect this building, and have so inadequately described, and put it up over the old store where some 300 employees were daily at work, and from two to three thousand persons trading daily, and yet at no time stop or interrupt the business of the firm.

It required "nerve" to undertake such a heroic task, and nerve of no common order. When the contractors sat down in their own establishment, at 107 Tenth street, to consider the problem, the specifications involved, before signing the papers binding them to such a novel, and, to many, an impossible task, they must have felt much hesitation. They were to build the largest retail store on the coast—a building five times its size—to remove the old store and leave the new one in its place, and yet not for one hour interrupt the conduct of the business or incommode a single customer. The task has been accomplished, and it will stand, so long as the

massive building does, a monument to the splendid capacity of these builders and to their unsurpassed courage. These master builders who took up the enormous responsibility of the entire contract, with its infinite details, worked originally for Carlo & Croly, the well-known contractors, whose work is to be found throughout the State. Eight years ago Sprague & Elliott set up for themselves. They have had a splendid success, doing work in a large number of places all over the coast, and have built up an enviable reputation for good construction and for capacity to handle massive jobs and large contracts.

In Sacramento they have worked on the beautiful and large buildings of L. Helms, W. E. Terry, C. F. Dillman, Hale Bros. & Co., Mohr & York and others. Though they put up the magnificent building, under notice, over the heads of 302 employees, and were engaged in the work for nearly a whole year, these premier contractors did not injure a single employee of all that number, and suffered the embarrassment of not a single accident to any of the thousands of people who passed in and out doing business beneath and in the midst of their work.

The Work of the Master Masons. The building was constructed, as we have already said, under the most peculiar circumstances. It was built over and around the former store, in which the business of Weinstock, Lubin & Co. was conducted meanwhile, with thousands of people passing in and out, and over 300 employees engaged in waiting upon them. It is considered by all builders a most remarkable achievement, and so it was. But no branch of the work was more difficult, because of these conditions, than that of the masons, who accomplished what George Murray & Son had the contract for the entire masonry work. They laid it all, from foundation stone to the last brick in the tower, under circumstances

being perceptible, without accident and without a single employe of the 302 in the store, or one of the 2,000 daily visitors to the establishment being incommode.

It was a remarkable piece of work; something that hundreds of people who assumed to know the art and labor involved could not be done—but it was and every piece is to-day fitted to place as if it were fine joinery, and is firm and strong as if the workers had not the peculiar circumstances described in this article.

Of course, a terrible risk was taken, but owing to the capacity of Mr. Bigelow, the strength, symmetry and his executive ability, the risk was assumed, and the scheme of the designers of the building carried out in the most perfect manner, with absolute precision and perfect success. It must be borne in mind that the part of this great work was the placing of the dozen or more sphinx columns, each fifty-four feet in height, and that these had to be set up through the old store while business went on in it.

The firm of Bigelow & Little now has a \$3,000 contract for a road and dam from Mariposa to Yosemite Valley. They employ from fifty to thirty men, have the best and latest machinery for architectural construction on the coast, are sole agents for the Pacific Coast for Wilson's rolling steel shutters now so largely in use, and have their place of business at 123 and 125 Mission and 103, 105 and 107 Fremont streets, San Francisco.

Whoever will take occasion when they enter the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building to take note of the immense amount of iron work in the structure, and how much the strength, symmetry and safety of the edifice depends upon such work, will at once realize the stupendous task Bigelow & Little had and what eminent success they accomplished in its task. The work will, indeed, stand as a self-speaking record to the energy, skill and splendid workmanship of Bigelow & Little.

Of the thousands of people daily passing the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building at Fourth and K streets, probably one-half or more, at some time during the erection of the edifice, have contemplated the massive cast-iron pillars that extend in two gigantic parts from the foundations of the front to the feet of each of the eight great arches which spring so gracefully from the interior columns and galleries, and have said to themselves "these massive castings made?"

They were cast, it may be replied, by the firm of Root, Neilson & Co., proprietors of the Union Iron Works, Front street, between N and O, Sacramento. Not only were these massive pillars the product of the Union Iron Works, but also all the cast-iron work in the building, the firm taking the contract under Bigelow & Little. This contract included the interior columns and galleries, and the cast-iron work in the building, the firm taking the contract under Bigelow & Little. This contract included the interior columns and galleries, and the cast-iron work in the building, the firm taking the contract under Bigelow & Little.

The firm makes a specialty of this class of large work, and, in fact, of all kinds of large castings. At the same time it must not be supposed that this is the limit of the Union Iron Works. On the coast, the firm builds all classes of iron and steel machinery, steam engines, quartz mills, steam road wagons, and, in short, all manner of machinery of the kind used in the mines. The firm has done work in the erection of architectural construction on all the large buildings of this city, and on many of the prominent edifices of the coast, including the Odd Fellows' Block, Sacramento Bank and the prominent edifices of the Capital City. A great deal of their work is to be found in the Territories and Mexico, and in adjoining States to California, bearing the trade mark of the Union Iron Works of Sacramento.

The firm employs a large number of men, and their work covers a large extent of ground. There are three general departments in the works, with one master over each department, and Mr. Root has entire superintendence of the machinery department, Mr. Neilson of the building department, and Mr. Driscoll of the foundry.

The firm was formed in 1858, and has occupied the same quarters, on Front street, ever since. In the twenty-three years it has built up a trade that extends along all the lines of transportation diverging from Sacramento. Iron work has been done at all the principal points, and therefore is a most important item to the buyer. The saving of the difference of the freight from San Francisco and from Sacramento to a given point in the interior, within Sacramento's trade area, gives this city advantages of the highest order for the prosecution of such industries as are carried on by the Union Iron Works.

The firm of Root, Neilson & Co. has an enviable reputation for square dealing, fine workmanship, promptness, faithful execution of contracts, and broad business methods. Their work upon the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building stands so conspicuously in the front, and is so conspicuous to the architect, that it will remain a monument and testimony in the eyes of all to the high capacity of the Union Iron Works of Sacramento.

One of the Iron-Workers. Among the pioneer mechanics of the Pacific Coast is James McGuire of Sacramento. For so many years that we cannot recall the date this veteran iron-worker has done business in the Capital City. It should be a source of pride to him that his name is so prominently mentioned in the architectural annals of this city, to which he is so much attached, as closely related to all the more important buildings of the place.

By no means the least of these is the superb edifice of Weinstock, Lubin & Co., now under review. For this beautiful building, the largest of its kind in the structure of the Pacific Coast, Mr. McGuire did a large part of the exterior iron work under a sub-contract. He made and placed the iron beams on the exterior

and all the corrugated arches upon which the cement walks are laid along the entire K-street and Fourth-street lines.

That this work was done thoroughly and well is testified to by all related in any way to it.

Mr. McGuire has not confined his business to Sacramento, but in iron and steel work, vaults, roofs, walls, girders, plates and all manner of heavy iron work in houses, prisons, bridges, banks, etc., his work will be found in important buildings throughout Northern and Central California, and up and down the coast.

For very many years Mr. McGuire had his manufacturing on K street between Fifth and Sixth, but in the present year he has erected a new building of iron on Sixth street between K and L into which he has recently removed all his machinery. He is a pioneer in the iron-working business, a pioneer citizen, and one of the best known and most esteemed of the business men of Sacramento.

Plumbing and Heating, Etc. The plumbing and drainage of the building was executed by the house of Crouch & Lyman, 511 J street, a young firm, which in a very few years has built up a large and important business in Sacramento. The same firm put in all the gas and electric fixtures. They consist of combination chandeliers and brackets, and are so adapted as to burn either gas or electricity, or both. They are shaded copper finish and are very handsome, which, with the art lights, make the store at night as light, almost, as by day.

All the work is well done, it reflects great credit upon the firm named, and testifies to the capacity to take and fill promptly extensive contracts. The firm also adjusted the drainage for the great building.

The best and heaviest work accomplished by Crouch & Lyman in this building was providing for its economical heating. This was done by putting in a

very large Bolton Hot Water Heater. So well satisfied is the firm of his merits of the heater, that it has taken this general agency for it. Very many said the heater was the best they had seen in the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building, because it is the largest one-room structure upon the Pacific Coast, being 140 by 109 feet in area, and has in it a boiler of 100 feet diameter, and a surface of 10,000 feet of radiating surface, and has in it all instances stood the test. The weakness of most heaters is in their imperfect circulation; in the Bolton the water passes through small pipes, where there are no counter currents. The direction of almost every pipe in the boiler is vertical, and the rapid upward flow of the water is unimpeded, as a result of these heaters. Of course in no brief space can this heater be described. To be thoroughly appreciated it must be seen in person, and the reader is invited to examine it. The thing to do for all contemplating heating houses by such a system, is to examine the heater in operation, and see the water passing through the pipes, and see the steam rising from it, and see the water being cooled and condensed, and see the water being heated and rising again, and see the water being cooled and condensed, and see the water being heated and rising again.

While the architecture of the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building is imposing in all respects, and while its interior, by its loftiness, graceful lines and chaste ornamentation, gratifies the cultivated taste, upon every floor there is special workmanship of a fine order that rivals the best of the coast, and that is the work of the painter, who has done up the building, and excites the highest exclamations of approval from all visitors.

We refer to the beautiful show cases that meet the eye on every hand. These are of all forms conceivable—neatly uprights, arched, flat, half-curved, cabinets, and so on, in an infinity of variety, and that are all the work of the painter, who has done up the building, and excites the highest exclamations of approval from all visitors.

Mr. Suter began his business in a very small way, some fifteen years ago, to prove his capacity by degrees. He had, besides, to compete with all the great show cases manufacturers of the coast, and those of San Francisco also. Besides, it was necessary to educate our own people up to a full realization of the value of the case, and, as a result, he has built right here in Sacramento as anywhere else.

His line has done, and now, having won deserved recognition, he operates a large manufacturing in Sacramento, from which he turns out metal and wood frame cases of all styles, and all kinds of fish, counter, tables and shelving, pigeon-holes and desks and the like, and competes with case with all rival markets.

Mr. Suter's business is so expanding that it is now necessary to erect a new building to operate, and where he can plant still more improved machinery, for he is now shipping abroad the products of his manufacturing to all parts of the Pacific Coast.

Indeed, it is not too much to expect that Suter will make Sacramento a manufacturing center for the work of the kind we have referred to, just as one man has made an Indiana town renowned all over the Union for its make of horse reapers, and another an American town in Michigan town famous for its output of furniture, and still another has converted a small Western city into a busy manufacturing center for chairs of a peculiar and desirable order. Mr. Suter ought to have encouragement at home; we should patronize all such home workmen, and by so doing help ourselves and our city by building up a home market.

Suter makes a specialty also of the manufacture of doors, windows and screens of all kinds of furniture. He is widely known for his skill in giving to his polished work a very high finish.

ing industry, devoted to his business, and a workman of the first order.

Lumber and Sacramento Advantages. Sacramento is a large lumber market. It ought to be a very much larger one. It will be, and that at no very distant day. Its nearness to mountain timber, notably the sugar and yellow pine growth; its capacity to receive lumber from coast mills, because of economy and advantages of storage here, equalize the cost of transportation; and the ease with which lumber shipments can be handled and made in all directions from this center; all these things tend to designate Sacramento as a point peculiarly adapted for lumber storage and disposition. Lumber stored here seasons in this dry atmosphere, as it never can in the humid air of the coast. It, therefore, ships light, goes to the consumer with the best "living" virtues, and wears better in any construction than lumber that is kept in a moist climate, especially if the lumber is to be put into valleys or foothill dwellings or other structures.

Lumber dealers and consumers recognize these advantages, and the Record-Union has frequently dwelt upon them. It was wisdom, then, for the climatic advantages, if for nothing else, to use lumber in the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building handled by city dealers. One of these firms is Richards & Knox, whose offices and main yards are at Second and M streets, and whose branch yard is at Front and Q streets. This enterprising house furnished all the lumber worked into the great building, and all that they supplied was of the very best quality of Puget Sound cut, and for shelling and the like of the best mountain yellow pine. As a result, the examining engineer from San Francisco, when he critically inspected the building toward the close of its construction, pronounced the work of the lumber that he had seen as well as iron work could be no better for strength. Richards & Knox do a very large business.

The Mill Work. In no part of this stupendous building, where excellence and thoroughness are manifest on all sides, is there any evidence of high skill in workmanship than in the mill work, the moldings, scroll work, panels, doors, carving, counters, stair rails, windows, brackets, and finished ornamental work of all kinds. All this work, all the mill work without exception, was furnished by Hartwell, Hotchkiss & Stalker, proprietors of the extensive sawmill establishment on the Pacific Coast, near the mouth of the Sacramento River, in the county of Colusa, a fine granite quarry for their own use, and from which they do not send any granite blocks to any other place. The firm has very extensive works on the Pacific Coast, and is constantly extending their business and broadening their influence in the business world, being progressive, liberal, prompt and thorough-going.

They do every description of granite, marble and sandstone work, both for walkways, fences, railings, monumental and ornamental purposes. They pride themselves, justly, upon the elegance and originality of their designs. They did all the mill work upon the new Postoffice building, and they do the sandstone work also. They executed the granite work on the Catholic Cathedral, and the establishment on the most prominent buildings in the city erected in the last decade.

They have done monumental work upon an extensive scale for Colonel Raymond, ex-Senator John Johnson, A. Menke, Mrs. Kerchival, John Rooney, Mrs. Kigney, Mrs. Stortz, Mrs. McInerney, and others, and they have done work upon the courthouses of Sonoma and Humboldt Counties, and similar work in stone in other parts of the State. They have also done the granite work which was seen in the Stevens' monument in the Plaza in this city.

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Lumber and Sacramento Advantages. Sacramento is a large lumber market. It ought to be a very much larger one. It will be, and that at no very distant day. Its nearness to mountain timber, notably the sugar and yellow pine growth; its capacity to receive lumber from coast mills, because of economy and advantages of storage here, equalize the cost of transportation; and the ease with which lumber shipments can be handled and made in all directions from this center; all these things tend to designate Sacramento as a point peculiarly adapted for lumber storage and disposition. Lumber stored here seasons in this dry atmosphere, as it never can in the humid air of the coast. It, therefore, ships light, goes to the consumer with the best "living" virtues, and wears better in any construction than lumber that is kept in a moist climate, especially if the lumber is to be put into valleys or foothill dwellings or other structures.

Lumber dealers and consumers recognize these advantages, and the Record-Union has frequently dwelt upon them. It was wisdom, then, for the climatic advantages, if for nothing else, to use lumber in the Weinstock, Lubin & Co. building handled by city dealers. One of these firms is Richards & Knox, whose offices and main yards are at Second and M streets, and whose branch yard is at Front and Q streets. This enterprising house furnished all the lumber worked into the great building, and all that they supplied was of the very best quality of Puget Sound cut, and for shelling and the like of the best mountain yellow pine. As a result, the examining engineer from San Francisco, when he critically inspected the building toward the close of its construction, pronounced the work of the lumber that he had seen as well as iron work could be no better for strength. Richards & Knox do a very large business.

The Mill Work. In no part of this stupendous building, where excellence and thoroughness are manifest on all sides, is there any evidence of high skill in workmanship than in the mill work, the moldings, scroll work, panels, doors, carving, counters, stair rails, windows, brackets, and finished ornamental work of all kinds. All this work, all the mill work without exception, was furnished by Hartwell, Hotchkiss & Stalker, proprietors of the extensive sawmill establishment on the Pacific Coast, near the mouth of the Sacramento River, in the county of Colusa, a fine granite quarry for their own use, and from which they do not send any granite blocks to any other place. The firm has very extensive works on the Pacific Coast, and is constantly extending their business and broadening their influence in the business world, being progressive, liberal, prompt and thorough-going.

They do every description of granite, marble and sandstone work, both for walkways, fences, railings, monumental and ornamental purposes. They pride themselves, justly, upon the elegance and originality of their designs. They did all the mill work upon the new Postoffice building, and they do the sandstone work also. They executed the granite work on the Catholic Cathedral, and the establishment on the most prominent buildings in the city erected in the last decade.

They have done monumental work upon an extensive scale for Colonel Raymond, ex-Senator John Johnson, A. Menke, Mrs. Kerchival, John Rooney, Mrs. Kigney, Mrs. Stortz, Mrs. McInerney, and others, and they have done work upon the courthouses of Sonoma and Humboldt Counties, and similar work in stone in other parts of the State. They have also done the granite work which was seen in the Stevens' monument in the Plaza in this city.

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