

WORLD'S BIGGEST HOTEL OPENS TODAY

The Pennsylvania, with 2,200
Rooms and 2,200 Baths,
Ready for Guests.

COMMODORE OPEN TUESDAY

McAlpin Will Add 300 Rooms the
Same Day—New York Gains 4,500
Hotel Rooms Within a Week.

The incandescent sky line over the heart of New York received a big addition to its candlepower last night when on the gloomiest, offshoot of Times Square hundreds of windows were illuminated in the largest tavern in the world, the Hotel Pennsylvania, which has its public opening today.

Seventh Avenue, which had been practically in the hands of the receiver during years of subway building, began to look again as if it belonged on Manhattan Island. The second-hand men and curb brokers in clothing, who have long predominated between Times Square and the Pennsylvania Station, stood on the sidewalks and in their shop doors last night looking at the outlines of the great structure with apprehension writ on their faces, expressive of the fear that the autonomous development of their lowly traffic in the heart of New York was seriously threatened.

The Hotel Pennsylvania, which has 2,200 rooms and 2,200 baths, is the largest hotel in the world by 200 rooms and 200 baths. Second to it in size will be the Hotel Commodore, which will open in Forty-second Street next to the Grand Central terminal on Tuesday. The Hotel Commodore has a round 2,000 rooms and an equally imposing number of baths. The Hotel McAlpin on next Tuesday will open its addition of 300 rooms, giving it a total of 600 rooms. Thus in one week there will be added to New York's hard-pressed hotel resources a total of 4,500 rooms and as many baths.

The Hotel Pennsylvania will give New York its first experience of Statler hotel management and service. E. M. Statler, who directs the chain of Hotels Statler at Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, and St. Louis, will be in charge of the Hotel Pennsylvania and will run it in accordance with his own ideas. The three hotel openings which take place within a few days will be under the management of the three greatest hotel organizations in the country. The Commodore will be under the management of the company headed by John McK. Bowman, which conducts the Biltmore, Manhattan, Belmont, and Murray Hill Hotels. The McAlpin addition will belong to the system of hotel properties controlled by T. Coleman du Pont, under the management of Lucius M. Boomer.

The Hotel Pennsylvania faces the Pennsylvania station in Seventh Avenue and extends from Thirty-second to Thirty-third Street. There are twenty-seven floor levels from the lowest sub-basement to the top floor. The hotel is set back several feet from the property line, increasing the width of Seventh Avenue until in this block it is slightly wider than Fifth Avenue. This valuable real estate was sacrificed to give a larger setting of open space for the hotel and the station for the sake of the architectural effect. The first four floors of the hotel are built in a style to harmonize with the massiveness and dignity of the great railroad building. On these floors are the offices, lobbies, dining rooms, cafés, galleries, and most of the public rooms. Above these floors the structure is cut into by four deep courts, which give light and air to all the rooms.

Any one under the impression that because he has heard of the Statler management as an introducer of many novelties, the Pennsylvania is to be a sort of "trick" hotel, will be disappointed. It was stated last night by a representative of the company that the art of managing hotels had been carried to such a point of perfection that any radical variations were likely to be unsuccessful.

One feature which will have its first metropolitan trial in the Hotel Pennsylvania is the "servidor." This is a small wardrobe which is built into the bedroom doors. The guest may open it from the inside and put his shoes or clothes into it. They will be noiselessly extracted by an attendant from the outside and returned pressed and shined. If a guest orders a bottle of seltzer, or any other small object, it will be left by a hotel employe in the servidor. A signal on the doors shows instantly when anything is put into the servidor. The purpose of this device is to make frequent or unseasonable visitations of bellboys unnecessary.

Ice water will circulate in every room. A newspaper will be delivered silently by the "servidor" every morning. Clerks and other employes, it is asserted, will be stocked with information about New York streets and transportation systems, the merits of different shows, and other topics of interest to visitors, so that most of the questions which will form themselves in the minds of the usual guests may be answered promptly.

The main lobby is said to be the largest in any hotel in the world, and is magnificently furnished, as the building is from top to bottom. There are numerous cafés, dining rooms, and ballrooms, public and private. One of the features will be a downstairs lunch counter, where food will be served with great speed and at moderate prices. Plans for the general dining room and café service have been worked out, it was said, so that much of the usual delay will be eliminated. The main café, which is put forward as a gem of decoration and architectural design, has stained glass windows, vaulted ceilings, Gothic woodwork, suggesting the interior of a venerable chapel and probably making easy its transition to some other use after next June.

The completion and opening of the Hotel Commodore will easily make the vicinity of the Grand Central Terminal the greatest hotel centre in the world. A private view of the big house will be given on Jan. 27, and it will open its doors to the public formally on Jan. 28. It is asserted that in furnishings and devices for the comfort and convenience of guests this hotel will set a new mark. Electricity has been used in the building, it is said, more thoroughly than in any other building in the world.

Governor William C. Sproul of Pennsylvania, President Samuel Rea and other officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and 400 others were guests last night at the Hotel Pennsylvania. The only speech at the dinner was made by Mr. Statler, who declared that he was the first man in the world to build a hotel designed from the viewpoint of the guest, and that he intended to operate this one not from the hotel man's point of view but that of its customers. After the dinner the visitors were taken through the chief parts of the building for a private view.

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